Saturday, July 14, 2012 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 216 P18 | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

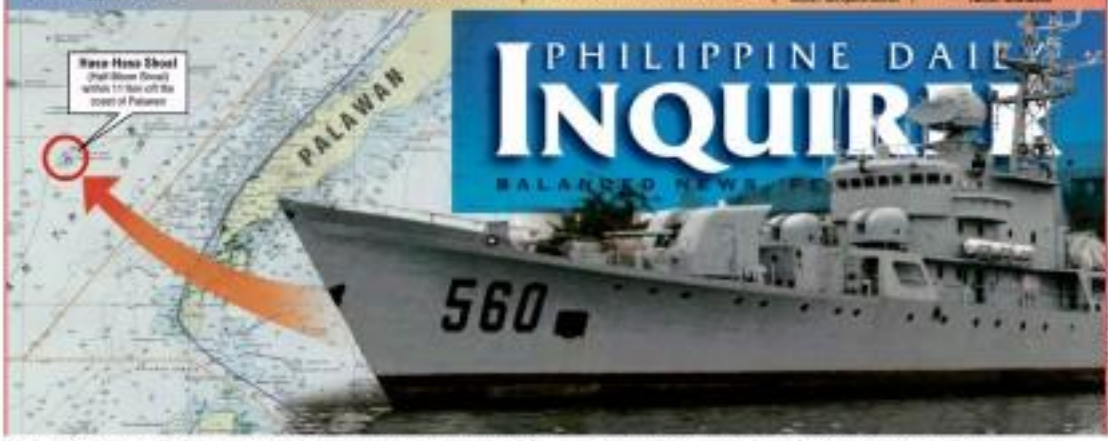

PHOTO of the Chinese frigate 168 that was reported to have run aground at Hasa-Hasa Shoal (Half Moon) some 111 km west of Palawan province, well within the Philippines' 370-km exclusive economic zone.

Sino ship stuck on PH reef

China radar reported set up near Kalayaan

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A CHINESE warship has run aground on a reef off Palawan while patrolling contested waters in the West Philippine Sea, an Australian newspaper reported yesterday.

The report came as the Philippine government started verifying reports that China had installed a powerful radar on Subi Reef, an islet 22 kilometers from the Philippine-occupied Kalayaan group of islands in the Spratly archipelago.

The Sydney Morning Herald, citing unnamed Western diplomatic sources, said the People's Liberation Army's naval ship No. 568 became "thoroughly stuck" on a reef at Half Moon Shoal during the previous night.

The warship is a Jiangho-class frigate "that has in the past been involved in aggressively discouraging Filipino fishing boats from the area," the Morning Herald said.

The Philippines refers to Half Moon Shoal as Hasa-Hasa Shoal, which military sources said is only about

SINO, A11

US finds rough sailing in Southeast Asian waters • Beijing: Asean talks productive / A10

DELICATE BALANCING ACT US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton calls for a unified Asean to negotiate with China over disputed territory, she also lauds Washington-Beijing cooperation. She puts the back of Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario who cochaired yesterday's Asean-US ministerial meeting at Phnom Penh's Peace Palace. (REUTERS)

Dolphy's family wants private burial rites

By Marinel R. Cruz

ONLY close family members, friends and media representatives will be allowed to attend the private burial rites of comedy king Rodolfo "Dolphy" Quizon Jr. tomorrow at 3 p.m., at Heritage Memorial Park in Taguig City.

"I hope his supporters will understand that we just want to spend our last moments with him in private," Dolphy's son Eric Quizon said, adding that the family has agreed to extend public viewing hours today, to accommodate more people who want to pay their last respects to the comedian. The chapel will be open to the public from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., the actor-director said.

Quizon said the media will also be allowed to cover the ceremony. "We will set up viewing areas for the press. We don't want cameramen hovering around us during the whole

DOLPHY'S A11

You rock, Mang Dolphy • This legacy will not be tweeted / C1 **• Legacy of laughter** / C1 **• Accolade for the comedy king** / C4

US Congress sees red over its Olympic team's uniforms made in China

WASHINGTON—Uniforms for US Olympic athletes are American red, white and blue—but made in China. That has members of Congress fuming.

Republicans and Democrats called on Thursday about the US Olympic Committee's decision to dress the US team in Chinese manufactured berets, blazers and pants while the American textile industry struggles eco-

US CONGRESS A14

Asean talks fail with deep splits over China

PHNOM PENH—Days of heated diplomacy at Southeast Asian talks ended in failure on Friday as deep splits over China prevented the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) from issuing its customary joint statement for the first time in the bloc's 45-year history.

Foreign ministers from the 10-member bloc have been wrangling since Monday to hammer out a diplomatic communiqué, which has held up progress on a separate code of conduct aimed at soothing tensions in the flashpoint South China Sea (West Philippine Sea).

China claims sovereignty over nearly all of the resource-rich area, which is home to vital shipping lanes, but Asean members the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei have competing claims in the area.

The long-stalled code of conduct, strongly supported by the United States, is seen as a way of reducing the chances of a spat over fishing, shipping rights or oil and gas exploration tipping into an armed conflict.

ASEAN A13

PH deplores non-issuance of Asean communiqué / A13

Inmate in Maguindanao jailbreak keeper of keys

By Edwin Fernandez
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—It was an inside job in more ways than one.

It now appears that one of the 11 inmates who escaped from the Maguindanao provincial jail here on July 10 was the keeper of the keys to at least three prison cells, a police investigation showed.

Bimbo Puan was a trusted inmate, having been jailed at the facility for several years, according to the city chief of police, Senior Supt. Danilo Reyes. It was not clear what Puan was serving time for.

BIMBO, A14

Century-old trees mute witnesses to history

By Mona Lisa H. Quizon
History Researcher
National Historical Commission of the Philippines

IF ONLY trees could talk, they would regale us with historical tales they have witnessed firsthand.

They are the living links to the past that no man has recorded.

Trees are ultimate symbols of strength and fortitude. It's a pity they could only witness, not join the Philippine Revolution. But be a witness, they did.

The centuries-old Kalayaan Tree

CENTURY-OLD A13

THE CHICO TREE (*Manilkara zapota* (L.)), one of the trees in the backyard of the Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite province, was planted by General Aguinaldo himself and was said to be one of his favorites, according to former museum gardener, 78-year-old Nonar Valeo.

PDI Newsboy Foundation honors its 6 scholars

THEY literally bring the news right to our doorsteps.

But on Wednesday, these six young scholars of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Newsboy Foundation found themselves in the news when they were honored as the Most Outstanding Graduates for the past school year during simple ceremonies held at the Inquirer main office in Makati City on July 11.

Awardees for the grade school category included Cristel Mante Perez (Pilar Village Elementary School, Las Piñas), Jeany Buenconsejo (Tuboo Northwest Central School, Aklan) and Joshua Inigo Capitan (St. Mary's School, Cagayan de Oro).

PDI NEWSBOY A14

SPORTS **Bulldogs** face Warriors as UAAP opens / A16

SCIENCE/HEALTH **Meatless** Monday campaign gains political ground / B2-2

SPORTS **Filipino** youngsters bag Junior World titles in San Diego / A17

WORLD **Over** 200 massacred in Syria / A22

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Mostly sunny and Metro will experience mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with scattered rain showers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	General Santos	Mostly Cloudy

Courtesy of the Weather Bureau of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO RESULTS

6/42 LOTTO
28 31 24 11 3 5

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
4 4 4 6 9 3 1 3 8

ENDO 4D
7 3 0 4

MEGA LOTTO 6/45
23 25 27 29 31 43
P13,597,001.20

LOTTO 6/49 Two (6) LOTTO, coded to 6/42, P1.50 more

Cha-cha is tall order, solons say

Amending Charter not as easy as impeachment, Speaker warned

By Gil C. Cabacungan

HOUSE SPEAKER Feliciano Belmonte Jr. may not have as easy a time getting House backing for Charter change as he did for the impeachment move against appointees of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, some lawmakers said.

Mandaluyong Rep. Rodolfo Biazon, a fellow Liberal Party member like Belmonte, expressed doubts Belmonte would be able to convince lawmakers, especially those running from agriculture-based provinces, to agree to Charter change (Cha-cha), and open foreign ownership to land, utilities and media.

"Cha-cha is different from impeachment. It's more difficult to push and more complicated. Although I want to change the Constitution, focus of the impact of foreign land ownership on the country's food security are one matter ignore," said Biazon in a phone interview.

Ati Southern party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio said lawmakers should not be so reckless that he would get the two-thirds majority vote in a constituent assembly for Cha-cha just like he did in impeaching former Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez and former Chief Justice Renato Corona.

"It remains to be seen whether the House leadership can muster the numbers to railroad approval of (Charter) change, given the overwhelming public opinion against it," said Tinio.

Tinio said Cha-cha would likely be met with massive protests and a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court. "So was proven when Ramos, then Arroyo tried to ram (Cha-cha) through, massive protests to the streets are the most effective means of thwarting Cha-cha," said Tinio.

Colmenares said Belmonte was likely to lose face after boasting that Cha-cha would be easily approved in the House.

"I don't think Cha-cha will get the same number of votes as the impeachment. There is no threat for Cha-cha among the people. Besides Cha-cha now is still very dangerous and may again lead to debates on some resolutions and 1987 Constitution, ownership of land and economics. There are many pressing matters."

Biazon said he does not share Belmonte's hesitation because it was difficult to gauge the interest of lawmakers) and it would be difficult to limit the debates to the Constitution's economic provisions.

Both Biazon and Tinio said that if Belmonte was confident that Cha-cha had the people's backing, the amendments should be made through a constitutional convention where the delegates would be elected in a special poll.

Meanwhile, a group of economists urged changes in the economic provisions of the Constitution.

Open letter to P-Noy

The Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF), in an open letter to President Aquino, said the repeal of restrictive economic provisions are urgently needed in finally end the historic slow recovery in investments in the country.

"We want our growth transformed from a consumption-driven one to an investment-driven one because only investment-driven growth will grow jobs and reduce unemployment," said the statement signed by FEF president Calixto Chikiamco. The country needed to amend the Constitution and announce to the world that it was open for business, he added.

FEF is chaired by former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo while its senior advisers are former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, UP Economics Professor Emeritus Bernardo Villegas and former Economic Planning Minister Gerardo Sicat and former Finance Ministers Jaime del Rosario Jr. Its board members include Rony Bermardo, Devan Leung, Thomas Allen, Art Canyon, Felipe Medalla, Sonja Maniza, Cory Oliver, Simon Peterson, Gloria Tan-Climaco and Francis Viseka.

With Dwin C. Dumlao

SC allows civil suits vs Piatco to proceed

By Jerome Aning

THE SUPREME Court has cleared the way for the resumption of collection suit at the Makati City Regional Trial Court filed by two Japanese companies against the Philippine International Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) for the construction of Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal (NAIA) 3.

In 2005, Takenaka Corp. and Antonioan Corp., which were contracted by Piatco to construct and design the terminal, respectively, were awarded a total of $71.3 million and P116.8 million, including interests, by the Queen's Bench Division of the London High Court of Justice.

The following year, the two Japanese companies filed a civil case against Piatco at the Makati RTC (branch 58 is assigned) to collect the award.

Claims no gov't

At that time, Piatco had a pending claims case before the Ebono City RTC, seeking claims against the government for expropriating the Naia 3 terminal in 2004.

Piatco asked the Makati RTC to dismiss the civil case, questioning the credentials of the Japanese companies' representatives, accused him of forum-shopping, and considered the jurisdiction in cases of the agreement between Piatco and the terminal operators, Manila International Airport Authority.

When the Makati RTC judge denied Piatco's motion to dismiss, the latter elevated the case to the Court of Appeals (CA), which in July 2007 affirmed the judge's denial of the motion to dismiss for allegedly forum-shopping.

Insisting on the dismissal of the case, Piatco then filed a certiorari case before the Supreme Court, which upheld the CA's decision.

In a 12-page ruling, the Supreme Court's Third Division said it "does not see any reason to overturn the CDA's finding that there was no grave abuse of discretion on the part of the trial court in denying the motion to dismiss."

Relaxing the rules

"There was no showing of such capricious or whimsical exercise of judgment or arbitrary and despotic exercise of power committed by the trial court. In fact, records reveal that both parties were given ample opportunity to be heard," the division said in a ruling penned by Justice Estela Perlas-Bernabe.

Acts the allegation of forum-shopping, the court said it had previously ruled that the procedures may be relaxed, considering that the case "has attained transcendental importance" because it affects one of the country's most important public utilities.

"The court must (I) to relax the rules to allow one to action at a full settlement of the parties' claims and avoid further delay in the administration of justice," the justices said.

In May last year, the Pasay RTC awarded Piatco US$176 million as "just compensation" for the government's expropriation of the terminal. Piatco, however, contested the amount and filed before the COA another appeal seeking $692 million, which remains pending.

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BROTHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

Smuggling of live corals foiled at Naia

By Tina G. Santos

AUTHORITIES foiled an attempt to smuggle out live corals through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) yesterday.

The live corals were found concealed inside a shipment of tropical fish bound for Fukuoka, Japan by a joint team from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

According to reports reaching the media affairs division of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), the corals were discovered in styrofoam boxes of live tropical fish.

Ben Dorantes, head of the fisheries quarantine division in Naia, said the shipment of live tropical fish was legal and was accompanied by proper permits. But exporting live corals is illegal under the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, he added.

Approximately 140 live coral pieces were found concealed in the shipment consigned to Wecha Int. Corporation, with address at 2-1-7 Nishi Tobata, Whatsuma-shi Fukuoka, Japan.

Reynaldo Caballero, chief of the BOC Export Division in the Naia disclosed that the airway bill of the cargo listed the shipper as a certain San International Enterprises with local address at 307 Santiago St., Carbohon Subdivision, Mamayo II, Las Piñas City.

Caballero said a warrant of seizure and detention has been issued against the shipment. It will be turned over to the BFAR.

A combined team from the BOC and BFAR has been dispatched to the address of the shipper to determine the individuals involved in the smuggling attempt.

Chavez wants oral arguments on JBC

By Jerome Aning

FORMER Solicitor General Frank Chavez yesterday asked the Supreme Court to hold oral arguments on his petition questioning the membership and voting rights of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).

The JBC will start conducting interviews for nominees of the Chief Justice post starting July 24. Chavez said the oral arguments could be held on July 17 or 18.

Chavez questioned the JBC's eight-member composition and the inclusion of Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero and Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. as representatives of Congress.

Chavez said Section 8, Article VIII of the 1987 Constitution clearly states that the Council should be composed of only seven members, with just one member representing Congress. He said the JBC should be stopped from holding proceedings if it continues to include eight members and that Escudero and Tupas should be prohibited from participating in the body's meetings until the issue is settled.

In a comment filed on July 11 by Office of the Solicitor General on behalf of Tupas and Escudero, the two lawmakers said the Supreme Court cannot stop the JBC from fulfilling its constitutional duty in screening nominees for Chief Justice.

Why only now?

Tupas and Escudero also said Chavez has no personal and substantial interest in the resolution of the controversy, especially since he had declined nomination for Chief Justice.

The lawmakers also wondered why Chavez was questioning the JBC composition only now when he had been aware of the body's voting rights members since 1994.

Escudero and Tupas said that Congress is a bicameral legislature and reiterates to it in the Constitution should pertain to both Senate and the House of Representatives.

They said that members of the 1986 Constitutional Commission had wanted a unicameral legislature but had changed to mind and forgot to alter references to a single chamber in the provisions on the composition of the JBC.

"The House of Representatives without the Senate, and necessarily vice versa, is not the Congress. One without the other cannot be considered as the Congress. When the Constitution speaks of 'a representative from Congress,' it should mean one representative each from both Houses which comprise wider Congress," Tupas and Escudero said.

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NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

P-Noy gives Sona preview to visitors

By Michael Lim Ubac

BAGUIO: Amid the applause of his fans at the Session Hall in Baguio City, President Aquino yesterday highlighted before a group of foreign visitors the key achievements of his two-year-old administration—"inclusive growth" and investment-grade rating—to make sure that "no one is left behind."

Mr. Aquino said.

Most importantly, this growth has been felt broadly through the economy and not just by a select few, he claimed.

He cited as an example the falling unemployment rate and self-rated hunger for the whole country, as shown in a recent survey.

According to a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey for the second quarter of 2012, the unemployment rate went down to 26.6 percent in May, the equivalent of 7.03 million unemployed adults. This was significantly lower than the 36.4 percent unemployment rate recorded in March, or 15.6 million unemployed.

Self-rated hunger for the whole country, from the same survey, went down to 18.4 percent in May compared to 23.8 percent in March, the SWS said.

The President also boasted of the increased spending for social services, to the tune of P367.9 billion, or around 33 percent of the entire 2012 budget.

"We are indeed making sure that no one is left behind, and we will be hard at work over the next few years to sustain (this) good. I am very pleased to share (that the good news doesn't stop there)," said Mr. Aquino.

He talked about putting a lot of work into improving the country's infrastructure in support of tourism, including airports and seaports.

The Department of Public Works and Highways has allocated P84 billion in 2011 and 2012 to construct, rehabilitate and improve roads leading to all of our tourist destinations.

Mr. Aquino said the public works efforts were complemented by the Department of Transportation and Communications, which has focused its attention on upgrading primary and secondary airports, as well as enhancing air traffic control systems.

Mr. Aquino underscored his commitment to boost the country's tourism, saying his administration had made good progress in the tourism sector to revitalize the country's economic growth.

The President cited increased tourist arrivals, though still small compared to those of the Philippines' neighbors.

He reported that in the first five months of 2012 alone, the country saw the arrival of more than 1.8 million tourists, more than half of the yearly average of three million arrivals in the years before he took office.

He explained that his administration was paying particular attention to tourism because within, "we can successfully pursue our agenda of inclusive growth, given the multiplier effect on jobs and the amount of money it brings into our country."

Probers waiting for complainant against Duterte

By DJ Yap

PINSING lies here in the hands of a fact-finding team may be a bitter pill to swallow for Davao City Vice Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who drew the ire of human rights activists for having an alleged con man to swallow the fake hand title he reportedly used to dupe his victims.

Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo yesterday created a fact-finding team which will include Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) officials from Region 11 "to get to the bottom of the case."

"I can understand the cries against Duterte's human rights violations, but he must also be subjected to the legal process," Robredo said in a statement.

Robredo noted that no formal complaint had been lodged against Duterte by suspect Wendito Gayas, who was arrested on Monday for allegedly peddling counterfeit documents to squatters in the city and possessing three hand for just P250.

Eating fake paper

Gayas allegedly duped his victims by claiming to be the owner of a foundation that "owns the entire Philippines," even presenting a fake Supreme Court decision to support the lie, the DILG said.

On Tuesday, Duterte reportedly visited Gayas inside his detention cell in the city and fanned the latter to eat the fake documents.

The incident caused a band of protest from human rights advocates, including Commission on Human Rights chair Etta Rosales and Tagbilaran Bishop Leonardo Medroso.

"We are first need to have the formal complaint of Mr. Gayas and the side of Vice Mayor Duterte before we can make our conclusions and recommendations on the matter," he said.

Duterte's daughter, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte, also made headlines last year when she punched a court sheriff who tagged her request to put off the enforcement of a court order to demolish illegal shanties in the city she later apologized.

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Revocation of Lee's passport sought

By Tina G. Santos

HGS President Jejomar Binay wants the passport of housing developer Delfin Lee cancelled immediately once reports that he has left the country to evade arrest are confirmed.

Aside from cancelling Lee's passport, the government could also impose the Lee's extradition, he added.

Binay has asked the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to confirm if Lee had indeed left the country.

"Please validate the reports quoting Secretary Jesse Robredo saying that Delfin Lee is already out of the country despite his outstanding warrant of arrest for syndicated estafa in Criminal Case No. 12-0980 issued on May 10, 2012 by Judge Annabelle Pobre-Reyes, presiding judge of the Regional Trial Court of San Fernando, Pampanga, Branch 43, if true, Sir/Madam, I would highly appreciate an immediate travel ban on how a fugitive from justice can easily escape from our jurisdiction," Binay said in his letter to the NBI and BI.

Binay said he was no longer questioning the apparent failure of the authorities to arrest Lee, but for the latter to be able to leave the country was another story.

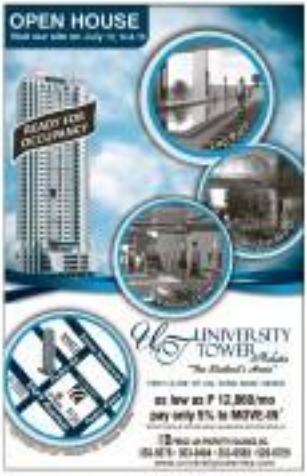
Lee owns Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Inc. (GAH), which was able to obtain over P6.5 billion in housing loans from the government using fictitious borrowers and documents.

The GA owner has an outstanding warrant of arrest issued against him for syndicated estafa in connection to GSIS-Sevens housing project in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Binay said he feared Lee's escape, if true, will lead to loss of the public's trust in the government.

Binay also the chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, said he would not allow Lee to escape arrest and vowed to help the public regain its trust in the country's judicial system.

After he was named housing czar in October 2010, Binay directed the Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-Ibig to investigate the fraudulent loans obtained by GA during the previous administration. It was found that GA used "ghost borrowers" and fake documents to obtain over P6.5 billion in loans from Pag-Ibig for its Sevens housing project.



No common bets for LP, UNA–Drilon

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE TWO MAJOR political coalitions gearing up for next year's midterm elections have made it clear that they would not have common candidates.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, vice chairman of President Aquino's Liberal Party (LP), said Thursday the emerging administration coalition would apply the same policy against guest candidates, which was earlier adopted by the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA).

"President Erap said he does not want guest candidates. That's the policy they'll adopt. We agree with that. No guest candidates," Drilon told reporters after a congressional civic night committee hearing on the controversial cash transfer program.

It remains to be seen how the "no guest candidates" policy would affect the likes of Senators Loren Legarda and Francis Escudero or Rep. Jack Enrile, son of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile who is a senior UNA leader.

Legarda and the younger Enrile are both affiliated with the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), which is still in talks for a possible coalition with the LP and the Nacionalista Party (NP).

Escudero left the NPC after he failed to solicit the support of NPC head Edgardo "Dangling" Cojuangco in the 2010 presidential election.

Drilon described the LP-NP-NPC coalition as still "a mark in progress, but there is substantial progress." He said part of the talks was how many slots each of the three parties would get out of the 12 senatorial positions.

So far, he said former Sen. Ambey Madrigal and Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada were in the "long list" of possible senatorial candidates.

But he declined to confirm whether the administration coalition was mulling to field Legarda, Escudero, Enrile or even Sen. Gregorio Honasan—all of whom had been earlier considered in the 2010 lineup.

Drilon also rejected Estrada's observation that the administration was "pecating" UNA candidates.

"No, no, we are talking about cash (transfers)... We are talking about alliances, (not) alliances. That (inclusion of Legarda et al) is a matter to be decided as an Erabite (the coalition," he said.

In a separate interview, Honasan welcomed the possibility of getting support from the administration coalition, but said he would not abandon UNA.

"I will stick with the (UNA) coalition... I am already, almost officially part of UNA," he said, noting that Vice President Jejomar Binay himself had invited him to the alliance. Honasan's longtime partner from Enrile is also with UNA.

But if eventually drafted in the administration slate, Honasan said: "I have to tell them that I am with UNA already. But if they want just the name, then I will have no serious objection."

Honasan welcomed the emergence of two major political coalitions for the 2013 elections, saying the situation should eventually lead to the establishment of a two-party system in the country.

"My worry is that after the elections, we might all go our separate ways," he said.

Solons seek probe of flawed e-passports

By Gil C. Cabacungan

HOUSE members are calling for an investigation on the allegedly flawed electronic passports produced by a Swedish company because of its adverse impact on national security.

Deputy Minority Rep. Neri Colmenares said the defective e-passports posed a security nightmare to authorities, considering that their point quality would make them prone to counterfeiting.

Colmenares said that the e-passport flaws that can most doubtless are its contractor, Oberthur Technologies, which had been blacklisted previously for teaming up with the Taiwan-based company that supplied the ink-jet of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in a series of 2004 bills produced for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Colmenares said that Rep. Virgilio Garcia (Lone district of Tarlac) would use the existing budget hearings to ask Department of Foreign Affairs officials to explain why it accepted the e-passports produced by Oberthur despite falling below the set quality standards.

Abigail Valte, spokesperson for Malacañang, said the government is working to address the issue.

Valte said that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has already sought the assistance of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in investigating the alleged anomalous transaction.

"The DFA has already requested the DOJ to conduct an investigation on the matter," Valte said.

Valte said that the DFA has also sought the assistance of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in the investigation.

"The DFA has also requested the NBI

Abu suspect in US priest's kidnap falls

By DJ Yap

A SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf bandit believed to be involved in atrocities in Mindanao, including the kidnapping of an American priest in 1994, was arrested in Quezon on Thursday.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) reported yesterday that Jamil Ortiz Manijari, alias Sadam, was arrested at around 10:30 a.m. by CIDG operatives in Barangay Caliwanhin, Infanta, Quezon.

In a report to Director Samuel Pagdilao Jr., CIDG chief, Senior Supt. Edgardo Danao, CIDG head in Region V, said the motorcycle-riding Manijari was arrested by elements of the CIDG and the Intelligence unit of the Philippine Air Force.

Pagdilao said Manijari was one of the trained men of notorious Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, and was involved in the kidnapping of Fr. Clarence William Bertelsman, an American Catholic priest.

Bertelsman was seized by the Abu Sayyaf on July 31, 1994, in a chapel in Ado, Jolo, but was rescued hours later.

Manijari was also allegedly involved in an encounter between Abu Sayyaf and government forces in Barangay Guanjo, Isabela City, Basilan, in 1998, in which 14 members of the military's Special Forces Operational Course were killed.

In April 2000 Manijari figured in an attack on three convoy from workers in Barangay Progreso, Turan, Lamitan, Basilan.

Last month, CIDG and military agents arrested in Zamboanga City a close associate of the Abu Sayyaf who was involved in the killing of American Guillermo Sobero, one of several hostages that the bandits seized from the resort island of Sipadan, off Palawan, in 2001.

The authorities captured Almais Hadraj alias Umalu Asnun, 42, a resident of Campo Islam, Zamboanga City and a known follower of the slain Abu Sayyaf leader Abdurajak Janjalani.

Mystery of killer disease uncovered

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) has finally uncovered the so-called "mystery disease" that has claimed the lives of more than 50 children in Cambodia. It's a deadlier form of hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) not susceptible.

In a statement issued yesterday, the WHO said it has been established at the conclusion of a joint investigation that a severe strain of Enterovirus 71 (EV71) causing HFMD had caused the illnesses and deaths in the northeastern Asian country that began in April.

It disputed an earlier announcement by the Department of Health (DOH) that the disease plaguing Cambodia was one of the encephalitis type and not HFMD.

No fatal cases have been reported yet in the Philippines.

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Across the NATION

Palawan police foil smuggling of 50 giant sea turtles

By Rudyrgrin Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A coast unit of the Philippine National Police-Maritime based in Barangay, southern Palawan, uncovered on Thursday a smuggling operation of giant sea turtles believed to be bound for the Chinese seafood market, reporters here learned Friday morning.

Col. Rico Puyanguy, head of the PNP Maritime-Special Base Unit (SBU) based in southern Palawan, said they have so far confiscated an estimated 50 marine turtles, most of them reportedly weighing between 50 to 70 kilos each, in Babuyan Island, a remote community which is part of Barangay Iduyang in Palawan's southernmost municipality of Balabac.

"At least two of the turtles were found dead," he said. SBU members were still conducting search operations on the island, he added.

Marine turtles are classified as endangered and are banned from being traded under various international agreements.

Puyanguy said the turtles were found hidden in separated areas and were believed to be awaiting shipment by Chinese buyers.

Acting on a tip, an SBU team headed by Insp. Demarrio Saltobasa initially recovered on Wednesday night 13 live sea turtles. Residents interviewed by team members said the turtles were to be fetched by a Chinese trader with connections to known local officials.

The seizure was the second similar incident in the area in two months. In early June, the same team raided a temporary holding area of live sea turtles on Amantil Island, confiscating 17 turtles. Several local Marines molders were implicated in the illegal trading activity.

The PNP Maritime-SBU is a result of joint efforts of the US Embassy in Manila, the PNP and the Puerto Princesa City government in 2008 to fund a project that would develop a small maritime law enforcement unit capable of carrying out maritime surveillance and response operations.

This project includes the recruitment and training of personnel, construction of a headquarters building for the SBU in Palawan and the purchase of four patrol boats.

The SBU is based in Puerto Princesa and is deployed in coordination with PNP units in the region between Palawan and Mindanao. It coordinates with both the existing Special Boat Unit of the Indonesian Police Pension as well as the Royal Malaysian Marine Police.

PH-MILF panels meet to tackle transition

ILIGAN CITY—The peace panels of the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) will meet anew in Kuala Lumpur on Monday in a bid to bring the 15-year negotiations nearer to conclusion, the MILF said.

The meeting takes place after a break in the monthly schedule last June, partly to give the MILF time to prepare for the Bangsamoro Leaders Assembly, which was held from July 6 to 8 in Camp Darapanan in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

For the MILF, Monday's meeting would be an opportunity to thresh out issues stalling a concession on the mechanics of a peace transition, Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator said.

Earlier, MILF chief Murad Ebrahim said the parties were "closer to be in an impasse since, after" on the issue of transition. "The [negotiators were too far apart," Ebrahim said in describing the government and MILF positions.

However, with the backroom negotiations by the Malaysian facilitator, Murad said "a semblance of compromise has emerged."

SUPPORTERS and unarmed fighters of Moro rebels pass a checkpoint in Sultan Kudarat in Maguindanao on July 8 for the rebels' consultation on their peace talks with the Philippine government. (EDGAR SUSVILLA JR./AFP/FILE PHOTO)

He revealed that Malaysian diplomat Tengku Dato' Ab Ghafar Bin Tengku Mohamed chaired between the parties after the May meeting in an effort to reconcile their respective positions.

"We cannot conclude what will happen [on July 16 to 18], but we hope this [talks] will issue of transition is ironed out," Ebrahim said.

Iqbal said the issue of transition is critical because it defines the quality of political and environmental outputs that the Bangsamoro people would attain as a result of a negotiated settlement.

Discussions on transition mechanisms include the fate of upcoming elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which has been synchronized with the national schedule beginning in 2012, he said.

The parties have earlier agreed to replace the ARMM with a new autonomous political entity with far greater powers consistent with the MILF's demand for "greater autonomy" in exchange for dropping its bid for an independent Bangsamoro state.

When he spoke before the Bangsamoro leaders assembly, Tengku expressed optimism that the parties would forge another breakthrough in the negotiations, a sequel to their highly lauded 16 Decision Points on Principles.

Chief government negotiator Marvic Leonen has targeted the signing of a peace pact within the year.

"Our final agreement should be simple but meaningful, and it should be signed within this year so that there is an opportunity to implement and assess and learn some more," Leonen said.

By signing it this year, both parties will have ample time to adjust, Leonen added.

"We know that our national government, whom we represent as the negotiating table, is poised and ready to iconic responsibility, and it's automatically to achieve all these," he said.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles said other issues will be dished out in the negotiating table by the government panel of experts led by Secretary of President Aquino and his Cabinet.

"The Panel does not bring empty or false promises to Kuala Lumpur. [It] goes ... to every meeting with a fresh mandate from the President," Deles said.

"Following the President's instructions, the panel expresses that the appropriate departments and agencies have been properly consulted and have come on board," she added.

Meanwhile, the MILF has released two government soldiers held by the rebels for "unconditional movement" on July 8 within the vicinity of Camp Darapanan, the rebel group's administrative complex. July 8 was the last day of the four-day Bangsamoro Leaders Assembly.

Von Al-Haq, MILF military spokesman, said the hostages the two were enlisted regulars by one inside the camp and the other as an overseer. In a statement, the MILF identified the soldiers as Sgt. Sumroy Pandilla of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, and Pfc. Jaime Mendiano, previously assigned with military operations of the 603rd Brigade, which is under the 6th ID.

The two were turned over to Brig. General Abdul Rahman Bin Mohammad Tasadi, head of members of the International Monitoring Team (IMT), on July 11.

"The two soldiers ... did not resist when arrested by MILF security forces who were alerted earlier of the presence of suspicious-looking persons," the rebel statement said. *Jigar B. Rimorin, Inquirer Mindanao*

Business owners hail SC order on Boracay reclamation

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—A group of business owners on Boracay Island welcomed the Supreme Court's order to indefinitely stop the controversial reclamation project at the jump-off point to the resumed island pending resolution of the case.

But Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI) said it would not oppose the project if it would be limited to 2.6 hectares in Barangay Caticlan and if a comprehensive study would be conducted to assess its environmental impact.

"It's a significant victory and a big boost to our efforts in safeguarding our island's already fragile ecosystem," said Nemesio Aguirre Oral, BFI chairman.

Saying unanimously, the Supreme Court on Thursday ordered an indefinite suspension of the reclamation project in Caticlan due to the failure of the Aklan provincial government to conduct public consultations and a thorough study of the project's effect on the environment.

The high court on June 7 last year issued a temporary restraining order, which is similar to a temporary restraining order.

Aklan Gov. Carlito Marquez said they had yet to receive a copy of the order although they knew about it through news reports.

"We will file a motion for reconsideration," Marquez said the because in a telephone interview.

He said they would include in their appeal a resolution of the BFI board of directors stating no opposition to the first phase of the reclamation project covering 2.64 hectares in Barangay Caticlan in Malay town in Aklan.

BFI president Dionesio Salme clarified that they would oppose the reclamation projects beyond that area, especially those that cover Boracay Island because the resolution only covered 2.64 hectares.

Salme said the resolution at issue provides that comprehensive environmental studies on the impact of the project would be conducted.

The provincial government is pushing for the reclamation project which involves the expansion of the existing Caticlan jetty port facilities, reclamation of coastline areas and the building of commercial buildings to house offices, eateries and small, mom-and-pop and other businesses.

The first phase covering a 2.5-hectare area in Caticlan is being funded by a P260-million credit financing through bond flotation payable in 20 years.

It was designed to be part of a planned P1.3-billion project in a 40-ha reclamation area approved by the Philippine Reclamation Authority. That includes 36.82 ha in Caticlan and 3.10 ha in Boracay.

But BFI had filed a petition before the high court to stop the project on concerns that it will affect the already fragile resources of Boracay.

The Malay municipal council which had opposed the project earlier endorsed the project based on certain conditions.

These include no issuance from the provincial government that it would commission a comprehensive study on the project's environmental impact and that it would implement possible mitigating measures.

The endorsement also required the provincial government to administer effective control the municipal government within the building to the residents' area and to ensure that local transportation operators will not be displaced.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ SORSOGON CITY

Collision kills 3

THREE PERSONS were dead and three others injured on Wednesday in a collision between a government ambulance and a van on a highway in a village here.

Killed were Bonifacio Ardales, 30, driver of the ambulance; Marilyn Ladrino, therapist of the Joint Coastguards unit; and Sarah Jane Rivero, who died as she was being taken to a hospital.

Supt. Edgardo Arbalate, city police chief, said the ambulance was negotiating a sharp curve on Maharlika Highway in Barangay Rizal when it collided with a van driven by Noel Pasala, 40, of Sad, Castilla, Sorsogon.

The van came from Samar and was bound for Manila. The ambulance was on its way to Juban.

Arbalate said the driver of the ambulance may have lost control of his vehicle and stepped into the fast lane. The ambulance, he said, was a new truck. The van suffered no damage. *Mar Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ BOHOL

Red tide alert up

THE BUREAU of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has raised a red tide alert in parts of Tagbilaran City and banned shellfish gathering and sale.

At least three coastal villages are covered by the ban—Poblacion 1, Poblacion 2 and Dampas. The ban is also in effect in parts of Barangays Manga and Bool. *Jhonner Ogsimar, Inquirer Visayas*

■ PUERTO PRINCESA CITY

Swiss survives attack

A SWISS national residing in the city survived a gun attack by motorcycle-riding suspects, according to police. Daniel Gubler was taken to a hospital after he was shot around 11 p.m. on Liberty Street here on Sunday.

City police Senior Insp. Alvin Pinpoint said investigators suspect "personal matters" behind the attack. He did not elaborate. *Rudyrgrin Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ CLARK FREEPORT

Trafficking suspect held

POLICE arrested a woman at Clark International Airport on Thursday for suspicion that she was behind human trafficking here. Police said Mita Bonifacio, a resident of Cavite, was arrested for allegedly facilitating the travel to Malaysia of two women from Bataan.

Immigration officials stopped the woman after discovering her lack of travel documents. *Jun Mullig, Inquirer Central Luzon*

■ SAN PABLO CITY

CCTVs installed in city

CAMERAS and traffic violations would be easier to detect after the city installed 13 CCTV cameras in different areas, according to officials. The city government has also installed eight new traffic lights. *Dominic C. Perez, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ PANGASINAN

Councilor dead

A COUNCILOR of Sual, Pangasinan, died while his companion was injured after a truck rammed their motorcycle in Barangay Bobonot in Sual on Tuesday, according to police.

Councilor Edison Garcia Jr. was driving his Isuzu Hi-Lander in Barangay Upong at 8 p.m. when a truck from the opposite lane hit his vehicle, police said.

Gabriel Fantonial, Inquirer Northern Luzon

DOH: Cholera in Bicol reaches epidemic level

By Mar S. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—An alert status was raised in Bicol following a sharp rise in the incidence of cases and in the number of deaths due to cholera from January to July this year compared with the same period last year, which their were only 141 cases recorded in the six provinces and four deaths in Albay and one in Sorsogon.

"Alarmed by the surging incidence of cholera cases, health authorities declared an epidemic," Santiago said. He said cholera is due to bacteria caused by eating dirty food and drinking contaminated water.

Records showed Camarines Sur has the highest incidence with 1,811 cases and 16 deaths; Camarines Sur, 811 cases, 7 deaths; Sorsogon, 295 cases, 8 deaths; Albay, 160 cases, 4 deaths; Catanduanes, three, 54 cases, and Masbate, 3 cases.

Santiago said that except for Camarines Norte, which posted a 36-percent decrease from 84 cases last year to 54 this year, all the other five provinces showed an increasing trend.

On July 2, Santiago issued an advisory to provincial, city and town executives to take health interventions to avert worsening of the cases.

Santiago said the DOH urged local government units (LGUs) to step up their campaign on food and sanitation, a normal sentence by requiring food handlers and vendors to undergo strict modelling before they could be issued health certificates.

The DOH also asked the LGUs to have available chlorine stock solutions to ensure safe drinking water in the communities.

Santiago reminded local chief executives to continue their respective water quality monitoring committees that would regularly check water sources in their communities and hold preventive and control measures to avert spread of cholera.

INQUIRER Visayas

WILDLIFE biologist Philip Godfrey Jakosalem gives a talk on bird-watching to a group of environmental enthusiasts during the kickoff of the annual reforestation caravan of the Philippine Business for Social Progress on June 23 at Barangay Talavan in Cebu City.

Lessons in rare wildlife while reforesting Cebu

By Cris Evert B. Lato
Cebu City

LIBRARIAN Lorna Ilgnia was all ears when wildlife biologist Lisa Paguntalan talked about the Cebu Flowerpecker (Dicaeum quadricolor), the rarest bird endemic to Cebu.

"I never knew that we have a rare treasure in the mountains of Cebu. This is a different learning experience...for here the tall buildings rising in the city," said Ilgnia, American corner librarian of the University of San Carlos.

She was one of nearly 1,000 people from different companies and organizations who joined the kickoff event of the yearly reforestation caravan of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) on June 23 in Sitio Cantipla, Barangay Talavan, in Cebu City.

Talavan, a mountain village about 45 minutes' drive from the city center, is part of the Central Cebu Protected Landscape (CCPL), Metro Cebu's primary source of water with an area of more than 28,000 hectares of forests and farmland.

Cebu Hillylands

The Cebu Flowerpecker is one of at least 31 bird species found in the Tabunan Forest Corridor inside the CCPL, which is also called Cebu Hillylands.

Known as "manatad" to locals, the elusive bird is among the world's 10 rarest birds and top 200 critically endangered species in the world, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Wildlife International. It was believed to be extinct until it was discovered in 1992 in the Tabunan Forest Corridor.

"Rediscovering the Cebu Flowerpecker adds value to the conservation of Cebu's less known species. It carries the banner of conservation for the less known endangered species," said Paguntalan, director for field operations of the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.

Paguntalan, who has practiced wildlife conservation and ornithology since 1996, said this was the second chance for Cebuanos and Filipinos to prevent a natural heritage from extinction.

About 100 Cebu Flowerpeckers could be found in Cebu as of 2006-2007, she said. They thrived in the forest patches of Inalagnan town, the Sirao-an forest of Mountain, the Mount Lantoy Bry Conservation Site in Argao town, and the Tabunan Forest Corridor in Cebu City.

"If you spend three days in Tabunan bird watching, you might have that one chance to see a Cebu Flowerpecker. That is, if you are lucky," she said the business.

Birds live in tall mature trees, their natural habitat, according to forester Orlyn Ilgnia. For instance, she said, the Cebu Flowerpecker lives on tall, canopy trees, and feeds on nectivore flowers, making them important seed dispersal agents of rainforest plants.

That explains the presence of the Cebu Flowerpecker only in Talavan, Alcoy and Inalagnan, which have small forest patches.

Native trees

"This is why we emphasize that in tree-planting activities, we should plant native trees such as nanea and mahoni. The birds live in those trees so if you cut them, they will leave and look for other places where those trees are found," Rosza said.

If the birds could not find trees serving as their natural habitat, they could die, affecting the entire food web, she added.

Paguntalan, Rosza and fellow wildlife biologist, Philip Godfrey Jakosalem, led the conservation talks during the PBSP's reforestation caravan.

They talked during the breakout sessions after the tree planting to emphasize the relevance of the reforestation project to local wildlife. The sessions also introduced the participants to local wildlife that thrives in Cebu Hillylands.

Inquirer Read-Along

The kickoff event also featured the Inquirer Read-Along program, which was conducted by 15 children from Sirao Cantipla.

Ilgnia and student members of Bahilum Theatre Organization of St. Theresa's College served as storytellers of environment-themed books.

"This is real learning. As a librarian, I know that books serve as one of the tools in learning. Seeing how things happen to nature in the realization of what we read in the books," Ilgnia said.

Young entrepreneur Shanna Lopez celebrated her 20th birthday with the children. Lopez, executive vice president of Nenas, provided batch of chicken and spaghetti, and school supplies.

She and some employees from Nenas planted seedlings of native trees, such as narra and tabio, in Cantipla.

Magic Mels, Shiela Pingan of the Golden Prince Hotel and Sauvrie Libosa of the Cebu Northwinds Hotel also gave meals, snacks and chocolates during the Read-Along.

Children of PBSP employees — Justin Ari-anna Mebouelhers, 5, and Andrew James Gamo, 7 — distributed gift packs to the young listeners. The packs consisted of pencil cases, pens, sharpeners, pencils, small towels, chocolates and candies.

"This is a very good experience for children living in the mountains. It makes us appreciate what we have and take care of them," said Maria Belen Vasco-Gonzales, 12.

Rosanne's father, Giovanni Stephens, manages the Cebu City Zoo.

"He would always tell us to take care of the plants and the trees. We should not destroy them because they are the homes of the birds and other animals," she said.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Reef alert

EDITORIAL

SAD NEWS about our marine environment: Nearly all the reefs in the Coral Triangle, the waters that surround six countries in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific, are in decline. Even worse and sadder news: Among the countries, the Philippines is leading in reef degradation, endangering its economy and food supply.

The rather depressing findings are contained in Reefs at Risk, a study by the World Resources Institute (WRI) that was released at the International Coral Reef Research Symposium in Cairns, Australia. According to the report, about 65 percent of the reefs in the Coral Triangle, a biodiversity hot spot, are in peril. The threats in the region—which covers the waters of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands—include overfishing, watershed pollution, and coastal development. Factors such as climate change and ocean acidification increase the number of threatened reefs to 90 percent, the study said. Moreover, the decline of the region's coral cover is greater than the global rate of 50 percent.

Often overlooked, coral reefs are a key pillar in ecology. Coastal communities depend on coral reefs for food, livelihoods and even protection from huge waves during storms. "Reefs are resilient—they can recover from coral bleaching and other impacts—particularly if other threats are low," said Lauretta Burke, senior associate at the WRI and lead author of the study. But pollution and overfishing are threatening to destroy the benefits that reefs provide. "Concerted action to mitigate threats to reefs across the Coral Triangle region is [very] important," Burke said.

The Coral Triangle was a major focus of the conference because it holds nearly 30 percent of the world's coral reefs and more than 3,000 species of fish—twice the number found anywhere else in the world. More than 130 million people living in the region rely on reef ecosystems for food, employment and revenue from tourism. Along with the report, a statement was signed by some 2,500 scientists and researchers who work on coral reefs and fisheries, calling for urgent action. The statement said 25-30 percent of the world's reef systems were severely degraded: "Coral reefs are important components of ecological, economic and cultural value yet they are in decline worldwide due to human activities. Land-based sources of pollution, sedimentation, overfishing and climate change are the major threats, and all of them are expected to increase in severity."

The situation is bound to get worse if local and global leaders fail to act, the statement warned.

The Philippines is gifted with the richest biodiversity in the world, which has been affirmed and reaffirmed by scientists and other researchers who can't help but be awed at their discoveries of the country's teeming flora and fauna. It can't afford to go the way of perdition. As it makes the eager rush toward progress and development, it should not forget that its riches has been fueled by its rich natural resources that, however, must be conserved and allowed to recover.

To some extent, this is the best time to renew the Philippines' commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development. The incumbent administration is friendly to the environment, and President Aquino has issued, for example, Executive Order 79, which restricts mining exploration. While the Catholic bishops and certain groups believe that the order is not sufficiently restrictive, the gesture should show that there's momentum for sustainable development.

The momentum should be exploited to save the Coral Triangle. The government must declare more marine sanctuaries. It should prod the other Coral Triangle countries to build more and bigger marine protected areas. It should adopt the WRI suggestion of imposing closed seasons to check overfishing, establishing "no-take zones" where fishing is not allowed, and using safe fishing methods in order to help revive coral reefs and increase fish stocks.

The Philippines should lead the Coral Triangle countries in reviving the campaign to make the big industrialized countries commit to critical cuts in carbon emissions so as to check climate change. In 2010, a widespread coral bleaching event, which is triggered by warmer ocean temperature, occurred in the Philippines. Its cause and the lesson should be clear and stark: Save the coral reefs and the environment—or face extinction.

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'Dakilang alalay' (but not for long?)

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Marcoshes

EUSEBIO ARTICLES abused, Cores Reyes (5/14/12, 6/22/12), Doná Medina (5/15/12), Rina Jimenez-David (6/29/12), and Mary Ravelo (7/3/12) have written in the heavens about how the Vatican was hearing down on nuns.

Collectively, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in the United States (LCWR) was subjected to "doctrinal assessment," which included questionnaires, visitations, censures. The prospect of the Vatican taking on our own association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines and the likes of Fr. Mulit Abbo Mintzmeyer makes my speculations sky-high.

Individually, there are theologians Sr. Margaret Farley (highlighted by Ms Doyo) for her book on sexual ethics, theologian Sr. Elizabeth Johnson for "Quest for the Living God," Sr. Margaret Mary McBride for an indirect abortion in the hospital she administered—all censored with strong objections to their writings, dismissal, excommunication, etc. The nuns to censure descends upon them swiftly and cruelly compared to those guilty of grave sins of sexual scandal, arrogance, injustice, etc. Who can't depend on the wrist, indeed off to hunting or plants to bless with no graded excellencies. And the nuns didn't even use the Church $2 billion for legal settlements!

Nuns may be the frontline of the big priests—i.e., the status of women in the institutional Church, another Rambo's has sounded for millennia marching point upon each by rank despite being persistently set on by the patriarchy.

When did the patriarchal Church begin? In the Bible, Shiprah, Puah, Deborah and Queen Esther are mentioned. Mary of Magdala, Joanna and Susanna serve in Jesus' Galilean discipleship. Priscilla, Junia, Lydia and Phoebe worked with St. Paul. "It's Not All About Eve" (America, 7/6/09) continues, who has heard of those women leaders? In contrast, who hasn't heard of the "woman shamed" who washed and anointed Jesus' feet with her hair, subsequently creating "a primitive narrative tension between women and sin"? Is this the proper way to mistakenly believed Mary Magdalene, the "first sexual prostitute" finally established as the esteemed "Apostle to the Apostles"?

In "Beginnings of the Church," Frederick Cwiekowski writes: "A careful reading of the New Testament texts show that women had a greater place and role in the early church.... Personal tales left accounts of all the evidences of the New Testament.... Some scholars, however, argue that those texts, how-so in fault presented time which obscures the place which women actually held in the early church." When, why and how did women become marginalized? [An interesting thesis topic.]

Flash forward to now. Fortunately is digging in. The bold statement that the laity is second class and women third class persists.

There is no lack of dripping praises for women's "dignity and role," for the "prophetic role of women in God's plan." There's a caveat in the exclusion. It's primarily meant for motherhood. Do such echoes also refer to the equal status of men and women to "positions of leadership and authority"? The exercise of authority dictates making leadership is the exclusive right of clerics.

Isn't it rather odd that the Church in its social teachings preaches equality everywhere else yet practices gender discrimination in its backyard, that only the celibate male view involving infallibility, tradition and divine mandate should decide for the entire Church, making its views our matter? Isn't exempt are women matters, generally "telling women how they should understand themselves as women," Sigfried one, after a priest's opening talk on marriage: "I wish I knew as little of marriage as he does."

And Cardinal Leo Burmeese at Vatican II: "Why are we even discussing the reality of the Church when half of the Church is not even represented here?"

What a great loss for the Church! Imagine governance, law, business, economics, education, healthcare without the likes of Leila de Lima, Cardinal Gaspin Rhodes, Linda Rhodes, Sedita Mercedes, Patricia Licuanan, Fr. del Mundo. How deprived, how impoverished, if every thing is left to men! Or imagine the family with father deciding all, and mother limited to "swalling the baby" and keeping house.

Oh, yes, women are allowed the Church from the Vatican bureaucracy down: to parish offices, outreach projects, charity work, etc. Women keep them functioning and running. Dubbed "dakilang alalay" [noble lackeys], they are superior as Church workers, flocking around "Father, Father." But no women are called the shots. Trying making the "purple-rolling."

Up the nine to the ultimate. Can a woman become a priest? Both John Paul II and Benedict XVI have declared such still no-no, underlining it' verbiest. But many, say-so-listed doctrine is not binding as to elicit "assent" all around. Also was not declaring the prohibition is a conclusive is a culture-no-deep that the Church cannot be run by men and that priesthood is for them alone. Canon Law says so.

But the Church is running out of believable reasons against women's priests, all of which boil down to one basis: "You're a girl." It culture is not the will of God, women status quo and change. Already there are around 100 women priests with or without the blessings of the Vatican. Women may be on the cusp of priesthood. It's a matter of time, or of another generation.

Asuncion David Marcoshes is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marcdy_ph@yahoo.com, fax 5556614

Juan L. Mercado is on medical leave. He will resume his "Newspeak" shortly.—ED.

It is not necessary to Cha-cha

GET REAL

Isidro Cuilao-Honrado

CONCORD, OR Constitutional Convention for Development, cries Pres. President Joseph Estrada—the target as I like cha (Charter change). Intra do amend all and sundry that nullify the attempt of his predecessor (Fidel Ramos) at Cha-cha. Sin was not going to run the nuttered government at all, but would "only" amend the economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution to limit/end the share of foreign investors in certain sectors (e.g. mining, utilities, transport and communications) and which, it was further asserted, was the reason for the relatively (congress) or other countries) small foreign investment inflows into the country. Which resulted, it was also asserted, in less employment and growth opportunities. The conclusion: The restrictions on foreign investments were WHY POOR.

No empirical evidences was presented for such an assertion at the time. And by any empirical formula, based with more pressing problems, did not pursue the matter.

Now, after a time lapse of more than 13 years, some Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Senate President Feliciano Belmonte, presumably taking up where Estrada left off, "amend II. And, apparently, still with no empirical basis.

Thank heavens that P-Noy is showing a modicum lack of enthusiasm for the move. And what reasons does P-Noy give for his reluctance (if the newspaper reports are accurate) to give his blessing to "amend II"? One is the very real possibility that, despite its assurances, the legislature will not keep its word about restricting the constitutional changes to the foreign investment provisions (how many times, after all, has it changed its mind?) and open up a Pandora's box of problems. Another is that the old Aquino folk saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" applies in this case. And a third is that if the Philippines grow faster than most of its neighbors in the past quarter, first quarter (how far are don't need to change the Constitution [quite a few logical fallacies in this]).

I think P-Noy has the right take on it. So I will take out and dust off the (voiceless hand) arguments I first brought out during the Concord I discussions, and then again during the Ramos regime's Cha-cha attempts. Those will buttress P-Noy's arguments.

First, empirical studies of foreign direct investments (FDI) in general:

Item: Macro- or economy-wide data may show an association between FDI and higher levels of income, but do not show causality. Translation: It is not known whether FDI causes the higher levels of income, or whether higher levels of income, or whether higher levels of income attract FDI. Similarly, no generalizations can be made about the link between the activities of foreign firms and income distribution.

Item: On a micro-, or project-level basis, a majority of projects yielded positive effects on national income, but a sizeable minority—one-third in two studies, anywhere from 20 percent to 45 percent in a third—had deleterious effects. Translation: Not all FDI will result in industry-growth or economically-developmental.

Item: Historically, FDI played only a minor role in the growth of most high-performing Asian economies. No need to translate.

Item: The factors affecting FDI include physical infrastructure, skill levels, quality of the general regulatory framework, clear rules of the game, and fiscal determination. Translation: Absent the above, no FDI will be forthcoming. Cha-cha or no Cha-cha.

With regard to the Philippine experience in particular:

Item: Restrictions on land ownership are not a constraint because from earliest land for up to 75 years; plus, foreigners can own condominiums, subject to the rule that only 40 percent of a condominium can be owned by foreigners (not so big deal).

Item: Restrictions on foreign control don't seem to be a constraint either, because Board companies controlled with less than 40 percent or even 20 percent of common stock are not uncommon. Also, "super majority" requirements on key decisions protect foreign shareholders; plus, a redefinition of boundaries of an industry also effectively removes constraints—as in the redefinition of a utility which then opened the door for foreign-owned generating plants.

But what about the recent Supreme Court decision [affirming PLDT] tightening the limitations and forbidding Commission's liberal interpretation of what constitutes total capital? It should be no problem, given the kind of language used and international clout, can be applied—as was done in the case of financial institutions.

In summation: The claim that the economic provisions of the Constitution have closed the door on FDI is not borne out by the facts. Foreign investors are in happy control or in beneficial consortiums with Filipino partners, sometimes by redefinition through legislation, or the use of creative financial and other instruments.

Therefore, amending the Constitution is not likely to open any new doors to FDI because for all intents and purposes, the doors are already open. It is not necessary to amend the Constitution.

What's more, amending the Constitution will not bring in FDI unless the factors affecting FDI are addressed. It is not sufficient to amend the Constitution.

It would be well for the proponents of Concord II to read Unctad's 2012 World Investment Report before they continue their advocacy. It is not titled "Towards a New Generation of Investment Policies" for nothing. "New" assuming there is one—requiring that FDI does not automatically lead to inclusive growth and sustainable development, and choosing only the FDI that will do so.

The 'lost decade' of the 2000s

NOVO APPOINTED Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan decried the "lost decade" of the 2000s—when poverty stayed flat despite rapid growth in gross domestic product—at the very start of his speech to the general assembly of the Philippine Statistics Authority's Conference for Data Users here last Monday, to give the government's perspective on the conference theme "Inclusive growth: socioeconomic development for all."

Based on his own analysis of the triennial Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES), the former dean of the UP School of Economics estimated the annual incidence of poverty at 26 percent in 1991, dropping to about 25 percent by 1997, then starting more or less flat afterwards, and winding up at 26 percent in 2009. (The percentages are either of households or of the population; I forgot to ask which. They are my readings of the graph on his PowerPoint chart, rather than exact numbers.)

The Millennium Development Goals mission that Balisacan was assigned to fulfill ends this December 2015. In terms of Dr. Balisacan's metric, that means aiming to cut it to only 16 percent within the next three years. It's a very tall order, but because of the possible, since it requires that the family incomes of the bottom 1991 to 1997 be repeated from 2009 to 2015.

Lessons must be learned from the less-but-only-as-powerful-as the 1990s, as well as the high-but-no-double-growth of the 2000s. The starting point is recognition of the "lost decade" as manifold lack.

The last has been plain to see for a long time. In "Six years of unshared growth" (Inquirer, 12/9/2010), I discussed the fresh November 2010 release by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) of the breakdown of poverty data. Compared to the two previous FIES rounds, of 2006 and 2003, the average income and expenditure per family in one 2000-pesos basis:

	2009	2006	2003
Ave. family income	129	125	119
Ave. family expenditure	112	107	104

Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

Thus the averages dipped from 2003 to 2006, and by 2009 had merely recovered to their levels of 2006. The formula of family income and expenditure over 2003, 2006 and 2009 coincided to the growth of real Gross National Product per capita by 24 percent, and real Personal Consumption Expenditures per capita by 20 percent, based on annual data over 2003-2009, in a separate NSCB release of November 2010.

The picture of flat poverty in the 2000s does not depend on the system used to measure poverty. It was equally seen (but some results more quickly) in the quarterly SWS surveys of self-rated poverty. The only difference is in the statistical of poverty's ills: since the people's own boundaries, but poverty are not as sloppy as the official poverty line, the percentage that considers their households as midway or poor is much larger than the official percentage.

From 1991 up to the middle of 2012, there have been 50 quarterly surveys of self-rated poverty so far. In "Pressure of poverty" (Inquirer, 11/19/2011), I reported that "In fact, poverty has been flat at about 51 percent since 2004 ... Before that, poverty was flat at about 54 percent in 1998-2003 ... And before that, poverty was flat at about 46 percent in 1988-1997." "Thus poverty does not decline only in poor times and rise only in recession; poverty often persists for several years, then the growth to somewhere.

If self-rated poverty falls to 31 percent by 2015, it would have been halved in 25 years, and the MDG would have been achieved. This is a tall order, since the second quarter 2012 rate was still 51 percent—i.e., the current picture of poverty has barred for eight years already.

With 2012 being an FIES year, one may expect the official statistics on 2012 family income and expenditure by November 2013, and the next official estimate of the progress in poverty that President Noynoy Aquino will be able to use unwittingly for his campaign for 2016. Pilipinas Kita's last campaign in poverty reduction between 2011 and 2015 (the next FIES year) is not scheduled for reporting until early 2017, under the next President.

Thus I have been recommending, as far back as President Estrada's time, that the FIES be done annually. The way to do this without increasing the survey cost is to use only one-third of the current sample size, combining previous and data for the sake of greater statistical and regional frequency.

An annual FIES also would have prodded the regularly per year, or on request in three years. An FIES actually takes two interviews, one after analysis, asking about the family's economic conditions in the first semester, and another early in the following year, asking about the second. The NSCB's practice has been to add up the two answers to make up the full year; but it would be more informative to report each semester separately.

In concluding his talk, Secretary Balisacan called upon BSC to be a partner in development, by investing in generating and spreading knowledge on "what works and what does not" for poverty reduction.

The way to obtain such knowledge is to watch poverty continually and to be open to all possible means of doing so. Failure to regularly appreciate the issues of poverty was surely part of what led to the "lost decade."

• • •

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

Starting from where the teachers are

Commentary

Ricardo Ma. Nolasco

at TBE-trainer Bridging Languages Workshop in Baguio City. I was intrigued with requests from the participating teachers for a more rigorous Mother Tongue-based Multilingual Education (MTBMLE) training regimen. The teachers were particularly concerned with practical issues like how to produce home-grown (and therefore contextually sensitive) teaching and reading materials, and how to actually develop greater fluency in their own local languages. I realized that their apprehension grew from the fact that teaching in a mother tongue-based program requires a vastly different set of skills, many of which they apparently do not have at the moment.

According to Dr. Dennis and Susan Malone, the leading MTE-L consultants from SIL International, a critical problem is that in most countries, there are too few certified teachers from local language communities who have the level of fluency needed to use both languages in the classroom. With out the advantage of MTBMLE as mandated by law, many who do speak the school language have done poorly in primary school and have not been able to progress through secondary school.

The Malones note that effective and sustainable MTBMLE programs require teachers who can illustrate top-quality reading and writing both their students' mother tongue and the official school language.

To help overcome this serious shortage, they propose three courses of action:

1. Uncooperative of MTBMLE into regular 2-, 3-, or 4-year teacher certification programs. In this program, pre-service teachers would become fluent in MTBMLE. Individuals learn how to read and write the local language fluently and how to teach their students to do the same. They learn effective second language acquisition (2LA) theories, how to apply the theories in the classroom, and how to help the local language influence the initial language of instruction. On completion of the program, these pre-service teachers will be certified and accredited as qualified teachers. Some 2-3 week workshops will enable certified teachers with experience in multicultural schools to gain the additional theoretical and practical knowledge and skills needed to be effective in MTBMLE classrooms.

4. Bottom-Up Education training programs for paraprofessional teachers or teaching assistants. These intensive training workshops are for individuals from local language communities who live and work in their home language and the school language but lack the necessary educational background to qualify for regular teacher certification programs. Pre-service and regular in-service training workshops will build their capacity to work with certified classroom teachers who are fluent in MTBMLE. Participants will learn how to build on their's first language. Paraprofessional teachers from nonmainstream language communities have proven to be effective in situations where certified bilingual teachers are unavailable.

As students achieve success in formal education in their mother tongue, and in the school language, most of them will complete secondary school and, hopefully, will have the desire to become certified bilingual teachers. The long-term result should be that the category of training will eventually be unnecessary.

Since the Department of Education decided this year to implement nationwide its own version of mother tongue-based education in kindergarten and first grade, teaching education institutions have their work cut out for them in training their curricula to be congruent with the new education policy. As their colleges provided, it will take time for pre-service teachers before we graduate and equip our teachers with the necessary competencies in the required languages and in academic content and before reforms translate into better long-term outcomes and greater participation rates. Is mapping on language use not only for the benefit of the few? The teachers themselves is a prerequisite that must be taken seriously by education officials as basis for planning sustainable MTBMLE programs.

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JBC is a farce

THE INVITATION by the Judicial and Bar Council for all nominees for chief justice to a job "interview" is demeaning to both the nominees and the Supreme Court itself.

Justices of the Supreme Court are chosen; they do not apply for the job. In the United States, from which our basic unit many of our democratic concepts and practices, the President nominates the justice, and the nomination is confirmed by the Senate with a majority vote.

A proper hearing by a bipartisan judiciary committee. When a vacancy occurs, the President consults at least a majority of the members of the committee, asked by his staff and advisers. The potential nominee is not even aware that he or she is being vetted until notification by the Office of the President.

The nominee's background is examined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which submits a report to the Senate judiciary committee. In an extensive confidential file affair, there holds a hearing to question him or her about judicial record, political philosophy, ideology and anything else deemed appropriate. The committee then makes a recommendation to the Senate, which approves or disapproves the nomination by majority vote.

Under the Philippines' 1935 Constitution, the procedure was for the President to make the nomination. It is then submitted to the Commission on Appointments (CA), which is composed of 24 members (12 each from the House of Representatives and the Senate). If the CA disapproves by majority vote, the President makes another selection.

This, there was a real check and balance, as the CA is a body independent of the Office of the President. This provision of the 1935 Charter may be considered an improvement over the US procedure, because it allowed both chambers of Congress to participate in the appointment of a justice.

Under the 1972 Philippines Constitution, only the President has the power to appoint members of the Supreme Court and judges of the lower courts. No check and balance, in accord with the dictatorship imposed by President Marcos. But under the 1987 Cory Constitution, a Judicial and Bar Council was established to make a list of at least three nominees from which the President selects the justice.

The JBC has eight members, who serve for a term of four years. They are the Chief Justice, who presides as ex officio chair, the justice secretary, a representative of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), a professor of law, a retired member of the Supreme Court, a representative of the private sector, and one representative each of the House and the Senate.

Except for the two Congress representatives, all are appointed by the President and are normally represented to follow what he/she desires. Hence, the check and balance once appointments to the judiciary was abolished. It is a dictatorship in disguise.

Moreover, legal practitioners from the IBP and the "private sector" (whatever that means) are included in the JBC as presidential appointees, injecting private and professional interest in the selection of justices and judges. Legal practitioners may aspire to gain some advantage if appointed to the JBC, such as the IBP representative who ran for Chief Justice Renato Corona in the impeachment case.)

The JBC is a farce, making possible the appointment of mediocre and self-serving justices, and habitually bestowing to the appointing power. We should go back to the system established by the 1935 Constitution (it, which a real check and balance was maintained in appointments to the judiciary).

The UP system in appointing justices has worked effectively. The US Senate has rejected certain nominees not just for their lack of personal integrity but also for their positions on civil liberties, human rights, and moral and political issues. One example is the rejection of Robert Bork, who was nominated to the Supreme Court in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan. His nomination was strongly opposed by civil rights and women's groups for his "stated desire to roll back civil rights decisions" by previous courts.

The last time we had a court look the Senate flexed to oppose Bush's nomination, declaring: "Robert Bork's America is a land in which women would be forced into back alley abortions, blacks would sit at segregated lunch counters, rogue police could break down citizens' doors in midnight raids, schoolchildren could not be taught about evolution, writers and artists could be censored at the whim of government, and the doors of the federal courts would be shut on the forces of millions of citizens for whom the judiciary is—and often the only—protector of the individual rights that are the heart of our democracy."

An activist general under President Richard Nixon, Bork was responsible for the "Saturday Night Massacre"—Nixon's firing of special prosecutor Archibald Cox and his decision for supporting the submission of the White House tapes that implicated Nixon in the Watergate scandal. He was considered a loyal political operator of the disgraced President. (Corona was impeached by the Senate by among other things, showing partiality to former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her attempt to leave the country despite pending court cases.)

On the other hand, President Barack Obama's nomination of Sonia Maria Sotomayor in 2009 as associate justice of the Supreme Court—its first Hispanic justice and her third female justice—was approved by the US Senate by a 68-31 vote despite opposition from Republicans on the ground that she sharply divided over her nomination because of her Latino background, with 33 Rep. Steve Diegiels as one time calling her a "racist".

Sotomayor also refused to answer when asked what her stand would be if the decision in Roe vs. Wade, which legalized abortion in the United States, were brought before her. Roe has integrity and predictability as a judge in the district and appellate courts won but the support of the Senate and much of the American public.

One would not expect the eight members of the JBC, most of whom are presidential appointees, to publicly debate over their choices for the Supreme Court. This appears as a consensus that is reached behind closed doors. But there has been no public debate over the qualifications, opinions and judicial records of the nominees.

In the past under the 1935 Constitution, when the President took full responsibility for the nomination of a justice, and Congress, through the CA, shared to the responsibility, the Philippines had great men and women as justices, from Chief Justice Claro M. Recto and JBL Reyes, whose integrity and erudite decisions resonate through the years.

We should return to the CA or the Senate the power to confirm or ratify presidential appointments to the Supreme Court and the lower courts. With elected people's representatives, and not only a cabal of eight, participating in the selection process, we will get a more effective, wiser and more righteous judiciary.

Manuel F. Almario is a lawyer and journalist. He is the spokesperson of the Movement for Truth in History.

Thinking out of the box

(First of two parts)

Business Matters

David L. Balangue

THE FIRST QUARTER growth in the Philippine economy of 6.4 percent is great news, and the trend is very positive that this is sustainable. The buoyant stock market, with the PSE Index finally breaching 5,000, is one of the best performing exchanges in the world. The Philippine peso continues to strengthen, which is a clear indication of a strong economy. More importantly, the business sector is optimistic of better things to come, with Malacañang's pronounced fight to combat corruption.

There are, of course, still a number of areas to worry that need to be addressed to sustain our growth and improve the living conditions of the Filipino people, particularly the poor. Many of these issues are systemic in nature and will take years and concerted effort to correct. Some of these issues and possible solutions are briefly presented below, as a starting point for discussion and improvement.

Corruption in government purchases. The current government procurement law, while workable, may be supplemented or perhaps replaced by setting up a Department of Procurement that will be responsible for all government purchases of goods and services. This department is similar to the outsourcing of the purchasing function already being done by some of the largest corporations in the world. Given the volume of these purchases, prices from volume discounts will be lower than if government agencies and units do their own purchasing. In addition, it will reduce not only the potential for kickbacks arising from collusion between the government official and the supplier, but also the need to hire purchasing personnel in each of the units, municipalities, departments and agencies. A Department of Procurement can hire experts and core technical personnel with expertise in procurement that require deep technical knowledge. All requests for proposals will be posted on a dedicated website; all bids will likewise be posted. A process for vetting and accreditation of qualified bidders will have to be put in place.

It is 12 noon. Many parents are voicing objection to the K to 12 program of the Department of Education in view of the additional cost and burden it places on parents. There is also concern about the issue with respect to the quality of Philippine education and the high school and college graduates that we produce. Some argue that 10 years of poor education is worse than 10 years of good education. Is the problem primarily the number of years of basic education, or the poor curriculum and lack of quality teachers and classrooms? If it's mainly the number of years, how come most of the graduates of the exclusive and top private schools are not par with those of our Asian neighbors? How come graduates of private schools on the average fare much better than their counterparts in public schools? Should the government address the curriculum issue first before embarking on K to 12, which will actually worsen the shortage of classrooms and of teachers?

Given inadequate government resources, the question should probably start with improving the school curriculum, which will not only require some suggestion worthy of consideration is requiring the government's elected and appointed officials to send their kids to public schools starting from place of residence. This simple suggestion will result in the parents of these kids immediately looking at what is wrong in the public school system and instituting the needed measures and reforms that, in the long run, will put public schools at par with top private schools. Currently, perhaps most if not all elected and top government officials send their kids to expensive schools, thus shielding themselves from the ills of the public system.

Congestion in MRT/LRT. The MRT and LRT are nightmares during rush hours. The coaches are literally congested and the queues under all the way down to the ground level. This problem is not being addressed because our powerful government officials, particularly those from the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Transportation Department, intake the MRT/LRT on their way to work? Or perhaps somehow their kids are also riding it, which? This simple requirement will compel them to rectify an act to do whatever is necessary to address the congestion problem. The adding more coaches and improving the ticketing system.

Traffic on major thoroughfares. Gridlocks and traffic jams are endless, causing the wrong lanes, speeding that results in accidents, lanes and jaywalking and unloading passengers in the middle of the road, and vehicles blocking the red or orange boxes at intersections are the main causes of traffic. Why not install on all major thoroughfares cameras that will capture that have the capability of reading the plate numbers of vehicles and automatically printing and mailing out traffic violation tickets? Perhaps all vehicles can be required to install radio frequency IDs that would enable CCTVs to easily capture the identity of erring drivers. Unlicensed and penalties and fines, as well as to know their licenses and vehicle registrations. Strictly implementing such measures will be a step toward disciplining erring drivers.

David L. Balangue is the chair of the Coalition Against Corruption, former chair and managing partner of SGV & Co., and founder of the #movementagainstcorruption.com. Comments may be sent to david@balangueadvisors.com.ph.

Sometimes a lie works

LETTERS

FOR AS long I have experienced small, female working in government offices whose officers are "in a meeting right now (and) cannot be disturbed" when I seek results in them.

In such instances, the exchange between me and the harassed, usually male, clerk is:

"Can you refer me to someone who may at least be able to answer simple questions?"

"Sorry, ma'am everyone is busy right now."

In comparison, I would lie. "I am a hitchhiker, you see, and would go back to the house tomorrow. It'll be nice if I could tell me (salubungan) there that my needs were served without hurting or go through a certain care."

Telling a lie, sometimes, produces a better effect than telling the truth. I apologize for my sin — I'm too proud of myself.

Such scenario in government offices is common, though in various manifestations. But I still happy to say that by being diplomatic, and using a small dose of "pakiusap," I win them over.

It is not an advice to everyone dealing with government employees (they who call themselves public servants). Just the same, we must to be civil to them.

I thank Gen. Ramon J. Farolan most sincerely for introducing to me modern Cadenas Understanding Seven Traits to Ramon, the materials directed at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Structure, 7/9/12). Show the understructure for his memorable, painstaking job of living them wherever disaster strikes.

—BONIFACIA PICORRO,
homeworkers@yahoo.com.ph

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K to 12 is another innovation bound to fail

WHEN THE Aquino administration came to power in 2010, the Department of Education announced a plan to introduce a new scheme into the Philippine educational system. Called the K to 12 program, its implementation starts in the school year.

K to 12 makes it mandatory for pupils to undergo kindergarten before they can be enrolled in Grade 1. But what makes K to 12 so new and different is the additional two years in the secondary education. This makes one conclude that in the past two and a half years, education planners, curriculum writers, school "experts" and selected subject area supervisors worked feverishly on the contents, time allotments and other related aspects of the additional two years. "Feel more time is left for our family," one college area supervisor studied me, referring to their work-life in the K to 12 program.

It may be recalled that as far back as 2004, the English already had a plan to implement a new high school curriculum to whom from 2005-2006. But the plan stopped in the air when several government leaders and teachers' organizations opposed it. For one, former Sen. Raul S. Roco, a former education secretary, slammed the idea because its requirements were "too much."

The National Organization of Professional Teachers led the opposition to the plan, citing the basic problems facing the educational system, which he said must be addressed first. Among the problems cited were the lack of teachers, classrooms, textbooks and other instructional materials, as well as chairs, desks and school supplies.

Reviews of issues in the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number as a reminder for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

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A harrowing fiesta experience in San Juan

I AM writing about the recent celebration of the feast of St. John the Baptist in San Juan City. As a foreigner, I have always been fascinated and impressed by the Filipino customs and practices marking fiesta merriments. I love the blessing celebrations of the feast of Santo Niño in Cebu, and I was the happy subject. I joined the huge crowd that assembled for Black Nazarene celebration in Quiapo last year.

I'm sure that for a tourist coming here, the way Filipinos celebrate their fiestas with such great enthusiasm, and in so many numbers, is a big eye-opener.

Although this year's is the third time I have spent in the Philippines, it was the first time I passed through San Juan on its fiesta day. In fact I found it very interesting to see the streets by the side of the road, dancing one another and the cart pacing by. However, my interest and fascination quickly vanished when the vehicle we were in came under what I can only describe as a "mob attack."

I was with a group of friends (mostly foreigners aware and females) and a priest from our congregation, on our way to a retreat, when a group of revelers stopped our van in the middle of the road. Six women with splashing water on our car, the group opened the passenger side door and threw water and mud into our vehicle.

When our driver rushed over to help the two young women in the passenger seat, the mob opened the door on the driver's side and threw in more water. The smash damaged the steering and our driver was stunned.

The mob then tried to force open the sliding door on the right-hand side of the vehicle. We instantly were able to hold it shut, but they were able to open the window on the other side, and the time throwing in more and more water. We continue with what they had done, they proceeded to open the back door and drenched the four Chinese religious sitting in the back seat.

Fortunately, the engine had not flooded off, but our before the jacket of one of our Chinese companions was sodden. The attackers also made an attempt to steal the flowers to be used for a fiesta, which we had with us.

We felt very threatened and intimidated by the attack. We do not believe that the assault was ordered the members of St. John the Baptist, and we hope it was not representative of the way most people who live in that area celebrate their fiesta.

I would like to express the sentiment that in the future they make police presence in clear area more visible to avoid a recurrence of such incident. It's a shame that such a beautiful fiesta was marred by the thuggery and aggressive behavior of a few.

—DANIEL BRUM,
Sodium Bel Catholic Missionary,
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CARP: Does reality support social justice?

REQUIRING JUST 11 minutes' time summed up what many people really think about the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). Whereas some facilities made reality available to farmers, the running over of small parcels of land to them is looking more like a hospital's chamber. In the face of the fact that a hundred reality that the most of agricultural areas are "truly under-tended... It is to work the due many farmers and father folk have remained on the margins. With no hands to go to, these agricultural workers are forced to have now their unscrupulous middlemen and loan sharks. "Thus, unable to get out of the debt cycle, they end up still dirt-poor farmers, disposing of their lands one way or the other just to bring food on their tables.

And here's why: The government's Land Bank is primarily mandated to provide credit facilities under the area farmer-friendly terms, like terms before. Where do you find to finance? They are needed right smack in urban centers where they merely cater to and connect rich corporations and businessmen (Inquirer, 6/14/12). Why are farmers at the mercy of usurers and loan sharks? And, concisely so what are "cursed slaves CARP" farmers and fisherfolk are really in "top shame" (Inquirer, 9/21/07).

The unaligned fact is, Land Bank's investments are concentrated in the urban centers where big-ticket investments are in abundance. They are there as land private commercial banks' ventures. The land idlers in the boondocks are deemed hopeless deadbeats, and lending money to them is just plain foolish.

Just for that as a start, in this day and age, economics of scale require gigantic machines, heavy-duty equipment and infrastructure which are only possible through corporate farming, for maximum maximum efficiency and productivity, vast tracts of land need to be kept intact. In a report this to the Inquirer's June 29 issue, it was said that the "farmers are reluctant to mechanize because they fear losing their work", besides, they can afford to pay only low power equivalent to what can invest in a "small-scale tiller."

Under such given handicap, they are forced to plan by lending out or break their backs trying. That is why the Philippines has remained as backward and flat on its back in terms of producing rice or whatever crop under CARP.

In the case of Hacienda Luisita, what can a farmer and his family alone do with less than a hectare? Remove money to buy a combine or some such machine? Or hire some for hand from among to comes? Seriously!

The commissioners of "agrarian reform" has gone on preposterously far enough! The June 27 issue of the Inquirer featured a photo depicting graduate students from the National University of Singapore holding over to plan care by hands in Africa.

In the name of whatever is left of this country's sense of dignity, let us not hesitate all agricultural farms already and scrap CARP.

—STEVEN L. MANLAWI,
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For urbanites that keep a busy schedule, vacations may seem hard to come by. But if your home in the metro is designed to provide an instant escape from the daily stresses, it's easy to enjoy a holiday everyday—and you don't even have to book a flight or pack a suitcase. Kasara Urban Resort Residences, the newest offering of Empire East Land Holdings Inc. in Pasig City, offers this exact kind of lifestyle centered on fun and relaxation.

Like its name suggests, Kasara brings resort living to the city. The 3.8 hectare address brings together modern residential buildings, recreational amenities, sports facilities, landscaped areas and wide, open spaces. While amenities anchor the community's playground. At the focal at the main entrance beside is a man-made lagoon, which serves as Kasara's centerpiece swimming pool area. Here, residents can cool off any time of the day.

Surrounding the pool are spaces especially designed for outdoor sports, perfect for those that want to play ball. An adjacent multi-purpose hall, meanwhile, provides a venue for homeowners planning a get-together with friends and family. There are also jogging paths for fitness buffs that like to start or end their day with a invigorating run.

Kasara showcases a gym, kids' gardens and even more water amenities at the fourth level.

A variety of exotic can be found here. There's a deep pool, a natural pool filled with smooth reflexology stones and an infinity pool. The infinity pool creates four artificial waterfalls that flow down to the ground-level lagoon.

Where it comes to residential spaces, Kasara's condominium offerings are as compelling as its amenities. The project offers studios 22.50 to 39 square meters in size and one-bedroom homes that range from 38 to 51.00 square meters. For those looking for more space, people can choose from 58- to 59.00-square-meter units with two bedrooms, or bi-level units that are 91.20 to 120.00 square meters in size.

Kasara is a resort paradise, but for those that call it home, it's also an instant link to key places in the city. Beyond the community are upscale workplaces, schools, retail centers and modern conveniences such as hospitals and churches. Mass transport systems are also nearby allowing residents to go where they need to go, quickly and easily.

For more information on how Kasara can make holidays happen everyday, call 838-3001 or visit www.empire-east.com.

Century-old trees mute witnesses of history

From page A1

or Ilaw (Pithecellobium pauciflorum), located in a church yard in Malolos, Bulacan province, has been a living witness to many historic events that transpired in the area. It was in Barasoain Church where three important events of our country took place: the convening of the First Philippine Congress on Sept. 15, 1898; the proclamation of the Philippine independence on June 12, 1898; and the inauguration of the First Republic on Jan. 23, 1899; and the subsequent ratification of the Malolos Constitution on Jan. 21, 1899; and the inauguration of the First Republic on Jan. 23, 1899, establishing the Philippines as the first democratic country in Asia.

The tree was then a young one standing a few meters from the convent where Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo found temporary refuge. Revolutionary field officers rushed under its shade to see the general and report on the battles won and lost by the revolutionaries. It was where Philippines sealed her battle orders or military moves.

Townspeople cheered Aguinaldo by this tree as he looked out the window or as he rode in his carriage on his way to the congress session at Barasoain Church.

Set on fire

When Aguinaldo left Malolos, the nerve headquarters—with all the important government papers—had to be burned. The liar tree was badly damaged but it has managed to survive.

Earlier, on the same place fronting the historic edifice, during young women bravely stood before warring Spanish Governor General Valeriano Weyler and presented a petition for the opening of a night school. Jose Rizal admired the courageous act of these women of Malolos that he wrote a letter in honor of Pablo.

Today, beneath the shade of the tree is a monument depicting the meeting of Filipino revolutionaries represented by Isidoro Gregorio del Pilar and Isidro Torres, legislator Don Pablo Tecson, nationalist Church leader Pedro Bautista Ilesilla and freedom fighter Isidro Bacilla Tancco.

Size is a hand and durable tree. It is not a native species although it is said known how it reached the Philippines. It has adapted itself well in different parts of the country and is now widely found in Luzon and Mindanao. It is planted as an ornamental because of its bright yellow flowers.

The chico tree (Manilkara zapota L.), located in the backyard of the Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite province, was planted by the general. Reportedly one of his favorites, the tree was a mute witness in his resistance talks with his comrades of the revolution and oaths of pledgings such as the proclamation of Philippine Independence on June 12, 1898.

Aguinaldo spent restful hours under the shade of this tree. When he retired to his home in Kawit, he reportedly swore his memories under the shade of the chico tree, a tropical species which reached the Philippines from Mexico through the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade.

The Kapitan Ilang Tree (Magnifera indica), a mango tree named after Diamantino Cavite, revolutionist Don Placido Campos, had been a witness to the historical event of Feb. 23, 1897, when Spanish troops massed under its shade to attack the Catholic Church, then held by the revolutionists. After six months, the Spanish Army came back and launched an attack on the church to regain the area. The revolutionaries fought hard but failed due to the superior arms of the Spanish forces. After the Filipino-American war, a civil government was established and Kapitan Ilang was chosen president of Bamban.

THE SAYSUNAN TREE (Ficus nota), as named after the revolutionary society founded by Andres Bonifacio on July 7, 1892, is located in Barangay Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City, birthplace of the revolutionary heroine Melchora Aquino, more popularly known as "Tandang Sora."

Kalipunan Tree

The Kalipunan Tree (Ficus nota), so named after the revolutionary society founded by Andres Bonifacio on July 7, 1892, was a duhat (Java plum) tree located in Barangay Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City, birthplace of the revolutionary heroine Melchora Aquino, popularly known as "Tandang Sora." The tree was named after the revolutionary organization in recognition of the nursery of Bonifacio's role in fighting for our freedom.

Every June 12, a simple Independence Day celebration takes place in the area under the joint auspices of the Knights of Columbus Bonifacio District Assembly of the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish Church and Mother Manila College.

The Death March Tree (Samanea saman (Jacq.) Merr.), a composite framework tree located on Quezon Avenue (C-1) and C-5 (National Highway) Sta. Rosa, Pilar, Bataan province, had also seen many historic events. On April 18, 1942, it witnessed the suffering of the Filipinos and American troops who marched by this area after the surrender of Bataan to Japanese forces.

Historical markers

In the 1990s, these trees were recognized by the National Historical Institute and the Tree Preservation Foundation of the Philippines for their historical significance. Markers were placed around them, extolling the historicity of events that transpired in their respective areas.

There are one of the most fascinating creations of God. A tree may grow to an incredible size and live to an almost unbelievable age.

There are trees which are considered historical and there are those connected with folklores. Like the Balete tree, a sacred fig tree under which Buddha obtained enlightenment. The Anne Frank tree, a horse chestnut tree in the city center of Amsterdam, which was mentioned in Anne Frank's "The Diary of a Young Girl," was a sacred tree of remembrance for Holocaust victims. Unfortunately, the tree was destroyed in a storm in 2011.

Not a few old trees found in different areas in the Philippines witnessed various events in our history or were part of momentous events. They were the silent witnesses of our past. However, it's sad that many trees, especially in Metro Manila, had been cut down due to road widening projects, construction of buildings or subdivisions. Because of progress, old trees are being taken down from the roadsides and out of our memory.

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PDI Newsboy Foundation honors ...

From page A1

Jhon Michael Sulayao (Lukeworlds High School, Manila), Jun Mark Red Saimon (Dasmariñas Integrated High School, Pampanga) and Gary Bobby Ladiola (Maryknoll of Marilog Davao Oriental) were the awardees in the high school category.

In her message, Inquirer chair Marie Pring also congratulated the awardees and encouraged them to continue to do better in school.

"We hope you continue to improve yourselves and get your higher education," said Pring, who also thanked the parents present during the awarding. "You should also be proud of enabling them to achieve this award."

Speaking on behalf of the awardees, Rabajon, a Grade 10 student at Dagupan City Institute of Technological University of the Philippines, thanked the newspapers for "this great blessing."

"Thank you for this big help. Knowing that the business is there to help us overcome our financial difficulties is a really big thing for us scholars," Rabajon said. It helps us to be more motivated to continue our other obstacles in our lives."

Unable to attend the awarding, Ladiola, now a freshman at Davao Merchant Marine Academy, sent a note thanking the business for its "generosity and encouragement."

"I sincerely thank the generosity and concern of you in help deserving students, to inspire and motivate them to become better individuals for country and God," wrote Ladiola, who has been a scholar of the foundation since his elementary days.

Davao dealer Sheila Hernando, who also received the award on behalf of Ladiola, likewise encouraged the scholars to be "good role models to other youth."

Pattara also shared the experience of his Grease Mastercard, one of the foundation's high school scholars. "He graduated from high school last summer and I encouraged how he is able to continue his college and its also with the help of Inquirer," she said.

Marrinwel, who helps in distributing the newspapers, is currently a journalism student at the University of Immaculate Conception. "His dream is to write for the Inquirer someday," Pattara added.

INQUIRER Publications Inc. execs wear to the Philippine Daily Inquirer Newsboy Foundation P65,000, representing proceeds from the Sir Bandera Cup held last year, during the foundation's awarding ceremonies at the PDI office. Looking on are PDI assistant vice president for circulation Manuel Aquitan Chanco, PDI Newsboy Foundation dealer trustee Danilo Jara, PDI senior vice president for sales and marketing Rose R. Reinoso, PDI chair Maria R. Prieto, Bandera editor in chief Dona Pelayo, Bandera sports editor Frederick Nicolai and PDI Newsboy Foundation dealer trustees Eduardo Villar-Cinco and Victor Navarro.

MOST DUTY-STANDING GRADUATES of the Inquirer Newsboy Foundation were honored for the past school year in ceremonies held at the PDI office. From left are Jaeroy Buenconsejo, Joshua Hugo Cajetas, Jhon Michael Sulayao, Cristel Marie Perez and Lisa Ladiola, who received the award on behalf of her son Gary Reuter Ladiola.

dealer-trustees Danny Jose (Ilawo Mansion), Sonny Navarro (Lucod and Eduardo Clarence (Visayan and Mindanao).

More than 1,800 scholars

During the program, Inquirer Publications Inc. also turned over P65,000 to the foundation. The amount represented the proceeds of the first Bandera Cup, which was held in September last year.

Part of the revenues from Inquirer copies sold goes to the Inquirer Newsboy Foundation. More than 1,800 students have been given scholarships since the foundation began handing out monthly stipends to deserving grade school and high school students in 1993. It started offering college scholarships in 1996.

Regional newspaper dealers nominate candidates for the scholarships. Candidates can be newsboys or a first-degree relative of a newsboy and should be on the top 10 of his or her class. — Belle Puzon, Inquirer Research

US Congress . . .

From page A1

nominally with many 100 workers responsible for jobs.

"I am so upset. I think the Olympic committee should be ashamed of themselves. I think they should be embarrassed. I think they should take all the uniforms, put them in a bicycle and burn them and start all over again," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, told reporters at a news conference on taxes.

"If they have to wear nothing but a singlet that says USA on it, painted by hand, then that's what they should wear," he said, referring to an athletic jersey.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi had requested she's proud of the nation's Olympic athletes, but "they should be wearing uniforms that are made in America."

Republican Speaker John Boehner said simply of the US Olympic Committee: "You'd think they'd know better."

Ralph Lauren's choice

In a statement, the US Olympic Committee defended the choice of designer Ralph Lauren for the clothing of the London Games, which begin later this month.

"Unlike most Olympic teams around the world, the US Olympic Team is privately funded and receives no financial support from our sponsors," Olympic Committee spokesperson Patrick Sandusky said. "We're proud of our partnership with Ralph Lauren, an iconic American company, and excited to outfit America's best athletes competing at the upcoming Games in London."

Ralph Lauren also is dressing the Olympic and Paralympic teams for the closing ceremonies and presenting musical clothes in the way is around the Olympic Village. Ribbon masterpiece of the competition uniforms for the US and outfits for the medal stand.

On Twitter, Sandusky called the outrage over the made in China uniforms ceremonies. The designer, Sandusky wrote, "team only supports our team. An American company that supports American athletes."

Ralph Lauren's company declined to comment on the uniforms.

'Outrageous ... plain dumb'

In fact, this is not the first time that Ralph Lauren has designed the Olympic uniforms. He did that for the Seattle Olympics in 1996.

"It is not just a label. It is an economic solution," said Rep. Steve Israel, a Democrat. "Today there are 100,000 unemployed manufacturing jobs in this country and the Olympic committee is outsourcing the manufacturing of uniforms to China? That is not just outrageous. It's just plain dumb. It is self-defeating."

Israel urged the US Olympic Committee to reverse the decision and ensure US athletes wear uniforms that are made in America.

Democratic senators Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Jeff Merkley of Oregon separately sent letters to Lawrence Probst III, chair of the US Olympic Committee, complaining about the made-in-China uniforms. Brown suggested that the committee find a manufacturer with a plant in the United States, suggesting that while millions of Americans are unemployed, "there's no reason why US Olympic uniforms are not being manufactured in the US." This action on the part of the US Olympic Committee is symbolic of a disastrous trade policy which has left us with a massive trade trade in China. So, yes, thanks China."

This is hardly the first time controversy has been discussed when it comes to Olympic clothing. The most heavy-armor of the 2002 Salt Lake Games was a fleece jacket, costing just $80, which were in the opening ceremony and prompted countless people to spend hours or hour waiting to purchase during those Olympics.

Those jackets were made for Bushwear, a Canadian company. That was the official US team outfitter for that opening ceremony.

$2B-million deal

In the last few years, the US Olympic Committee has faced criticism for some of its sponsorship deals as it has scrambled to deal with the economic downturn.

When General Motors fell as a sponsor, the US Olympic Committee signed a $20-million deal with Ford Motor Co. to name "SMA" and several swimmers. At the time, the committee highlighted the carmaker's 40-year history of selling cars in the United States and the fact that GMAV had 7,000 American employees.

The US Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee also were criticized for clicking with BP as a sponsor after the deadly oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico.

ABC World News reported on Wednesday night that the uniforms were made in China. — AP

Dolphy's family wants private burial rites

From page A1

proceeding. We want the ceremony to be solemn," he stressed.

All-white affair

All of Dolphy's 10 children and his loved ones were told to wear white, his father's favorite color, Quizon said.

Details about the burial rites and the wording on the tombstone will being finalized, Quizon said a tentological order was issued be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

"We might include the eventual release of white balloons during the proceedings," he said. "As much as possible, we want to keep everything a surprise."

The comedian, who died on Tuesday, will be interred in a niche made of pinkish granite that measures 4 feet by 4 feet and 1.5 meters tall, according to a TV report. Construction of the niche began last week at a cost of P280,000. The niche stands on a 39-sq m lot that reportedly costs P7 million.

Yesterday, a luncheon at Heritage Park was organized by the Professional Artists Management Inc., or Pami, which last night's meeting/special service was hosted by Sampaguita Pictures, Dolphy's movie studio in the 1950s, as well as by the cast of "Sobra sa Matalino," the hit sitcom that ran for 17 years.

Nat'l Day of Remembrance

President Aquino on Thursday declared July 17 as a National Day of Remembrance in honor of Dolphy, an honor that, Quizon said, the President did not mention to the family when he paid them a visit Thursday night.

"We only found out about it from members of the media who interviewed us after he left," he said.

Recalled Quizon of that visit: "After (President Aquino) entended his condolences, he told us, 'It's only you, Eric, that I know in your family.' This is because his sister Eric is my friend. I sometimes join them during dinners," he said.

The President also shook hands with his other siblings. Quizon said: "Si our pulse he turned around and (that I said), 'Presidente, maayosan pa po. Marami po kami.' (There are more of us. We are quite numerous.) He said we're okay, then proceeded to shake hands with the rest of the family members."

Aquino also spoke with Dolphy's longtime partner, singer Zoe Zoe Padilla, before asking for a photograph. Quizon said: "I think it was to show that he made the announcement," he added.

Penthouse in Bulacan

In Bulacan, Bulacan province, the Philippine Dog was raised at half-staff at the town hall yesterday to honor the late comedian, Bulacan officials on Thursday passed an ordinance that posthumously recognized Dolphy as the adopted son of Bulacan.

Sponsored by Vice Governor Daniel Fernando, also an actor, the ordinance recognized Dolphy's contributions to show business and to society.

The date of Dolphy's mother, Gabriel, from Bulacan, Fernando also said, while one of his sons, Rodolfo Quizon Jr., lives in the comedy king's penthouse in Bocaue in Bocaue in four village. Dolphy also has extensive living in Malibu City and Dumdi town.

Gov. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, Fernando and the other officials handed the plaque of recognition to Dolphy's children at Heritage Park on Thursday.

Dolphy was a recipient of the Gawad Gaugad ng Lipi given by the province on Sept. 11, 1995.

The award is the highest recognition that the local government gives to a native of Bulacan province. Other awardees of the award are the late President Corazon Aquino and National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin.

National Artist award

Apparently heeding public clamor, President Aquino on Wednesday said he favored the conferment of the National Artist award on Dolphy.

Dolphy's son, actor Rudolph Quizon described it as a noble gesture. "We really appreciate it. It has been hard the comedian received the award when he was still alive.

"This has been the subject of many news stories. It was even a trending topic on Twitter for hours. Many people spoke out that politics came in. They're planning to give it to Dapo now that he's already gone."

"We, his children, would gladly accept it, but it would have been so much better if it was given to a time when Papa was still around to personally accept it," he pointed out.

According to Rudolph, Dolphy's only one with actress Alma Moreno, he has set to come to terms with his father's passing. "We really appreciate that he would be able to get over the illness. His doctors kept saying, 'Your father is strong. He keeps fighting,'" he said. "His death hasn't fully sunk in yet. My last moments with him at the ICU (intensive care unit) kept flashing in my mind. It was a unique experience to watch as his blood pressure dropped and his heartbeat slowed down. He fought until the end."

More solid family

Added Rudolph: "I grew up very close to him. A big part of me is now gone. One good thing that resulted from this tragedy was that our family became more solid (as evidenced) by how many people came to the funeral)."

Rudolph said that his mother, Moreno, who was Dolphy's partner for eight years, was also having a hard time coping with the comedian's death. "She just arrived from Mindanao. I'm worried that she wouldn't break down," he said.

Speaking a canvas of a young Dolphy on his right forearm, Rudolph described his father as "a simple man" who would go to Barbecue church every Wednesday. His home in Dumbuque has so many religious items that it sometimes gives me goosebumps looking at them."

TV5 chair Manny Pangilinan, in his eulogy, emphasized the importance to TV5 of Dolphy's decision to join the network.

Pangilinan recounted: "Three years ago, we welcomed Master Dolphy as a (rival) network. But for the truth is quite the opposite—he welcomed us."

TV5 vice president and creative and entertainment head Deyi Escudero promised that TV5 would continue airing "Pinoy Meets Dolphy," a show that originally featured Dolphy. "This is our commitment to him. I imagine Tito Dolphy saying, 'the show must go on.'"

With a report from Carmenita Reyes-Estrope, Inquirer Central Luzon

Inmate keeper of keys

From page A1

"He was the key keeper of cell No. 3, 3 and 4," Reyes said.

Some of the escapees were from those three cells, he said.

According to police investigators, Pasay reported the dismissal of the cells after the jail's most notorious inmate, Dawson Ramos, also Lumbiman, had fled.

"The other inmates simply followed Lumbiman," Reyes said.

Pasay, Lumbiman and seven other inmates remain at large.

New jail warden

Magsindaman Gov. Samuel Mangudadatu said he has already appointed a new jail warden for the Maguindanao jail to replace Lumbiman.

He said Ramos Orbit, the jail warden, who was sacked in the wake of the jailbreak, was being investigated.

Sawed-off iron bars

Augusto Diaz, one of two escapees who was recaptured hours after the jailbreak, told reporters that it was Lumbiman who had planned the escape.

"He patiently sawed off the iron grills of the toilet every night, or when the guards were not watching," he said.

Lumbiman would then use sawdust from the sawed-off portions to hide the marks from the guards, he said.

When he was finally able to saw off the grills, Lumbiman squeezed himself into the opening and jumped out the window, said Diaz. He was met by two men toiling in separate motorcycles, he said.

Diaz said the other inmates knew of Lumbiman's plans but kept quiet out of fear as the notorious bandit leader is known to have loyal followers.

Escaped once before

In 2000, Lumbiman's followers sprung him from the North Cotabato provincial jail in Kidapawan City, where he was being held on robbery and kidnapping charges.

Lumbiman was recaptured a few years later, he was moved to the Bilibid prison City jail where he was confined until February when his followers again tried to spring him from prison. A judge on Jolo in Sulu ordered the Maguindanao provincial jail.

Three persons were killed and more than a dozen were wounded during that failed rescue attempt.

MILF help

Reyes said efforts to recapture Lumbiman and the other escapees have not had any success so far.

Maj. Gen. Rey Ardo, commander of the 6th Infantry Division, said soldiers were also receiving help from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members sometimes to locate the notorious fugitive.

Lumbiman is a former MILF rebel commander who turned to banditry after the Muslim rebel group and he had been dropped from its ranks.

Ardo said Lumbiman may still have some relatives or supporters within the MILF "so we need the help of our friends in the MILF to locate him. We can't blame the military since sometimes within the MILF."

Under the terms of the government-MILF peace process, an operation against armed criminals inside rebel-claimed territories had to be coordinated with the MILF.

PH deplores non-issuance of Asean communiqué

By Tina G. Santos

THE PHILIPPINES yesterday deplored the non-issuance of a joint statement at the end of the 45th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Cambodia.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said the failure to issue a joint statement was unprecedented in Asean's 45-year history.

A joint communiqué would have included Asean's stand on the territorial disputes of some members of the bloc with China in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Del Rosario said the Philippines took strong exception to the statement made by Cambodia, host of the meeting, that there would be no joint statement because it not able to issue the joint communiqué due to bilateral conflict between some Asean member states and a neighboring country."

He said he had discussed the situation at Phnom Penh Diamond Island (Koh Pich) in several meetings in Phnom Penh starting Monday.

"There was a considerable amount of discussion on Asean breaking down. But the first time that were held there," Del Rosario told reporters. "I think we were successful in being able to keep it on the [Asean] the challenges that the Philippines faces in that area."

Asked for comment on Cambodia's allegation that the Philippines was causing trouble, Del Rosario said, "I think even when we were silent, we were being accused of escalating; when we were responding, we were accused of being the bully. There are any hostile observations."

Cambodia's opposition

Explaining the controversy about the issues joint statement, Del Rosario said: "We simply wanted the fact that we discussed the issue and it should be reflected in the joint communiqué, no more, no less. It would have just been a simple sentence or paragraph in the communiqué. We just want a recognition that the Scarborough Shoal was in fact discussed."

Del Rosario said several Asean states and the Asean secretariat supported the Philippine position that the Scarborough Shoal discussion should be reflected on the joint statement.

"However, the chair [Cambodia] has consistently opposed any mention of the Scarborough Shoal at all in the joint communique and today no joint communique. We regret that very much," Del Rosario said.

"It is a productive meeting and China's views and position on many issues has won the appreciation and support of many participating countries," foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Weimin said.

"Over the years this Asian regional cooperation has made important achievements relating to regional peace, stability, development and prosperity. China has also made important contributions and efforts in this end, which is widely appreciated."

The Asean foreign ministers failed to reach an agreement on a joint communique, hobbling up progress on a separate code of conduct aimed at soothing tension in the flashpoint South China Sea (West Philippine Sea). AFP

Del Rosario declined to name the countries that supported the Philippines' position, saying "I may be putting in jeopardy those countries that I do not name, as I would prefer not to do that."

"The first position the chair took was that he doesn't want to mention bilateral issues," Del Rosario said. "But if you look at all of their fates a bilateral aspect to it."

He said it was not true that the Asean did include bilateral matters in joint statements. "The most recent example of this was the problem between Cambodia and Thailand in every meeting, that was brought up as a matter of discussion with no reservations," Del Rosario said.

International issue

The Philippines, Del Rosario said, maintains that since the competing claims in the West Philippine Sea are not mere bilateral conflicts with a northern neighbor but multilateral, these should be resolved multilaterally.

"In the case of Scio de Manila (or Double Dragon Shoal)," Del Rosario said, "the situation there threatens the peace, stability, freedom of navigation and the unimpeded commerce in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea). It's not only a bilateral and a regional issue but an international one as well."

Asked if Cambodia was pressured by China, Del Rosario said: "I don't want to speak for the chair. That question should be answered directly by him. But at one point, he indicated that he had political reasons."

Multilateral solution

Del Rosario said the Asean secretariat reached during the senior officials meeting in June on the elements of a code of conduct in the West Philippine Sea clearly underscored the pursuit of a multilateral resolution of the disputes, not a bilateral resolution that China preferred.

Further, the Asean foreign ministers have already agreed to a beginning of a basis in between Asean and China on the development of the code of conduct," he added.

Del Rosario said the problem that arose during the Phnom Penh meeting should not be seen as a beginning of a basis in between Asean and China on the development of the code of conduct, he added.

"I think it just presents a bigger challenge for us to continue to build on what we started for—leadership, unity, solidarity," he said. "I think we have more realized that we need to work, all of us need to work together in building this community we're targeting for 2015," Del Rosario said.

US finds rough sailing in Southeast Asian waters

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—The Obama administration now has a taste of the difficult diplomacy necessary to sharpen the focus of American power on Asia, tasking investment opportunities alongside rebuttal from nations wary of Washington's ambitions.

From democratic Mongolia to once-hostile Vietnam and long-isolated Laos, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton this week found governments eager to embrace the United States as a counterweight to China's expanding military and economic dominance of the region, while still lukewarm about American demands for greater democracy and rule of law.

And after meeting face-to-face with China's foreign minister on Thursday as she began to wrap up a tour of Asia, Clinton lauded Washington's progress since the week up the rest of Southeast Asian nations threatened by the communist government's expansive claims over the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea).

US officials outlined their belief in greater democracy and freedom for Asian nations. The vision is part of a larger Obama administration effort to change the direction of US diplomacy and commercial policy and reinvest it in the places most likely to become the center of the global economy over the next century.

American values

"I've talked about the breadth of American engagement in this region, especially our push to strengthen economic ties and support democracy and human rights," Clinton told reporters. "This is all part of advancing our vision of an open, just and sustainable regional order for the Asia-Pacific."

Clinton was to meet on Friday with Burma (Myanmar)'s President Thein Sein and infrastructure firm to American businesses leaders looking for investment opportunities. The United States has eased sanctions on the once reclusive military dictatorship, opening up new opportunities for the administration's aim to tackle to double American exports.

In Japan, Clinton secured a longtime ally the US was committed to its security from threat, she visited from countries in China's backyard, part of a larger economic axis among the world's most dynamic.

In each place, Clinton was careful to make the case for American values alongside American business aspirations.

Code of conduct

In probably her most difficult test of the week, Clinton pressed Beijing to accept a code of conduct in the South China Sea.

Meeting on the sidelines of the Asean's annual gathering, Clinton stressed the ways Washington and Beijing were cooperating, while Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi spoke of building even closer US-China ties.

'Confrontational behavior'

Afterward, they got into the acrimonies talked the South China Sea.

The sources base about a third of the world's cargo traffic, rich fishing grounds and vast oil and gas reserves—economic opportunities that China has staked out if if China were to seize total control.

Clinton singled out "confrontational behavior" in the Scarborough (Panatag) Shoal off northwestern Philippines. AP

Beijing: Asean talks productive

BEIJING—Beijing on Friday described a ministerial meeting of Southeast Asian countries that broke down amid deep division over China as "productive."

A foreign ministry spokesperson emphasized China's position had been supported by some among the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Sino ship stuck on PH reef; China reportedly set up radar near Kalayaan

From page A1

[illegible] ton [illegible] vessel [illegible] from the municipality of Rizal on the main island of Palawan province, will refloat the vessel by [illegible] 2012.

Edrella said orders were being issued from the national government on how to respond to the situation.

Ready to help

He said, however, that the military was prepared to provide assistance to the stricken Chinese vessel.

"Any ship or naval vessel in distress, we are duty-bound to provide assistance, regardless of whether or not they intended to in our territorial waters," Edrella said.

Earlier reports said the stranded ship equipment at Pagasa on the SBP Lagoon and an Islander reconnaissance aircraft of the Philippine Air Force.

The reports said all of the officers and crew of the Hong Xiang Yi were safe and were being kept at the Pataing Shoal (Scarborough Shoal) area prior to yesterday's incident at Hasa Hasa Shoal.

China's defense ministry yesterday acknowledged that one of its frigates had run aground while conducting patrols in the disputed part of West Philippine Sea.

In Manila, the Chinese Embassy issued a statement saying the frigate was aground around 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

"Currently the rescue work by the Chinese navy is underway," the embassy said.

The embassy said no injuries were reported.

Diplomatically challenging

The Sydney Morning Herald said salvage operations could be diplomatically challenging, given that the vessel appears to have run aground within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

The stricken vessel has in the past been involved in aggressively discouraging Filipino fishing boats from the area, the Manila Herald said.

The Chinese ship could not have come at a more embarrassing moment for the Chinese leadership, who have been pressing territorial claims and flexing their country's muscle ahead of a leadership transition later this year.

An Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) foreign ministers' meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, ended in disarray yesterday without a code of conduct for resolving conflicts in the West Philippine Sea. (Story on Page A11)

38-vessel fishing fleet

On Thursday, China dispatched one of its largest ever fishing expeditions from Hainan island to the Spratly archipelago.

Chinese fishing boats regularly harass the Spratlys, a presumedly oil-rich archipelago that China claims as part of its territory on historical grounds, but parts of which are claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan.

The 38-vessel fishing fleet deployed on Thursday is one of the largest ever launched from Hainan, according to a report from state-run news agency Xinhua.

Poaching

The last notable incident at Hasa Hasa Shoal occurred in 1995, when Philippine authorities apprehended 62 Chinese fishermen for poaching in the area and possession of explosives. The Philippines also impounded four fishing boats involved in the incident.

Wednesday's incident at Hasa Hasa Shoal takes aimed a worsening dispute between the Philippines and China over Panatag Shoal, where Philippine and Chinese vessels faced off early each other for two months.

China has refused to withdraw its maritime ships from the shoal even after the Philippines has pulled its vessels out of the area to ease tensions.

'Provocative action'

In Wednesday, Rizalty Casandang, chief of the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, told reporters that if the setting up of the radar by the Chinese on Subi Reef was confirmed, the Philippines would view it as "provocative action."

"Such an action, he said, would not be consistent with a code of conduct in the West Philippine Sea that Asean is trying to formulate to prevent armed clashes with China in disputed parts of the sea.

Meanwhile, the Philippines would cooperate with China on its own or get the Asean involved to get China to agree to a code of conduct, Casandang said. "We are meeting with the Asean."

Several foreign ministers agreed on key elements for the code of conduct in their Phnom Penh meeting, but the proposals of the code may take more time now that the bloc is in disarray over China's lobbying to exclude any reference to the Scarborough Shoal standoff.

With reports from Agence France-Presse, Bloomberg News, Inquirer Southern Luzon, Time & Tide and The Sydney Morning Herald

Asean talks fail with deep splits over China; angry exchanges mar meet

From page A1

Asean Secretary General Surin Pitsuwan of Thailand said the Philippines and Vietnam pressed the association to include a reference to a recent standoff between China and the Philippines at Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal) in the West Philippine Sea claimed by both countries.

PH lambasts Cambodia

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) issued a statement lambasting host Cambodia—a beijing ally—for "consistently opposing any mention of the Scarborough Shoal at all."

The Philippines lambasted the failure at the end of the talks, saying "it deplores the non-issuance of a joint communiqué... which was unprecedented in Asean's 45-year existence."

Taking "strong exception" to Cambodia, the Philippine statement said divisions confront Asean's part of instilling "disputes as a bloc "and sees in a lesser fashion—the approach which the northern neighbor (China) has been insisting on." (See story on this page)

The failure to issue a joint statement marks a sharp downturn in efforts to cool tensions following a recent spate of naval brinkmanship over territory in the West Philippine Sea.

The Philippines and the United States called this week for a unified Asean that could use its collective clout to negotiate with China, while Beijing prefers to deal with its smaller neighbors individually.

China, whose trade and investment ties with Cambodia have surged in recent years, has warned that "external forces" should not get involved in the regional dispute.

Neutral

The United States has repeatedly said it is neutral in the long-running maritime dispute, despite offering to help boost the Philippines' decrepit military forces.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton played down the deadlock, saying it was "not unusual" for Asean ministers to disagree on issues in Phnom Penh on Thursday evening.

"I have worked in many multilateral settings, and it is not at all unusual for such more than one organizations to be working on and discussing and even arguing about certain matters past the deadline in order to try to see if there's a way forward," Clinton said.

But Clinton urged China to open talks with Asean nations to calm tensions over these and other disputes in the South China Sea.

Any code of conduct for the West Philippine Sea, she said, should create a framework for preventing and resolving disputes, "trying to settle matters bilaterally" could be a recipe for confusion and even confrontation," she said.

Angry exchanges

Diplomatic sources, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the matter, referred to angry exchanges during behind-the-scenes talks, with an emergency meeting called for early Friday morning after failing to break the deadlock.

"I think it would be fair to say that tempers in some of the private meetings have run hot. There have been some very tense back and forths," one US official said.

China is a key bankroller of the much-criticized host Cambodia and some diplomats said Beijing had twisted arms in Phnom Penh to prevent any reference to the South China Sea disputes in the communique.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong expressed regret as the discord within Asean, but said he could "not accept that the joint communique has become the hostage of the bilateral issue [between the Philippines and China]."

Profound disappointment

Indonesian Foreign Ministry Marty Natalegawa, who played a key role trying to broker a compromise, expressed "deep, profound disappointment" at the lack of consensus within the bloc.

"There is still a common view that we must, if anything, redouble our efforts to work on the COC [code of conduct], to begin our talks with the Chinese on the COC," he added.

Foreign ministers said on Sunday they had agreed on "key elements" of a draft code to be presented to China, but those were not released to the media.

China was also said to the idea of meeting negotiations, almost 10 years since the idea of creating a code was first agreed, saying it would only negotiate "when conditions are ripe."

Analysts said the friction could "internationalize" Beijing's disputes between Asean and China.

'China's stalking horse'

"Cambodia is showing itself as China's stalking horse. This will make negotiating a final code of conduct with China more difficult," said Ian Storey, an Asia expert Carl Thayer.

"I find it difficult to believe that Asean foreign ministers cannot come up with some formulation that satisfies all parties." *Reports from AFP, AP and Reuters*

Bulldogs unveil 'diamond' UAAP, battle Warriors

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN host National University unveils Season 75 of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) today, the Bulldogs also aim to showcase the form that made them among the favorites.

The Bulldogs, hoping to have fully dusted off the whipping-boy tag, kick off their bid to the men's basketball tournament where they have as a theme to defending champion Ateneo, Host UAAP Spirit, Section E.

"We're motivated," said Bulldogs star Jiay Pinto. "We motivate ourselves each and every day in practice."

Pinto, last season's Most Valuable Player, hopes to lead the Bulldogs in their opening game against the University of the East at 2 p.m. at the new Mall of Asia (MOA) Arena.

NU formally tips off the league's diamond anniversary celebrations in the 12:30 p.m. opening clinic featuring a lights-and-sounds spectacle.

For Eastern University and University of Santo Tomas, two squads also tracked in the top four clash in the second game at 4 p.m.

"We had a good summer run and we hope to carry it over to the UAAP," said coach Aldin Ayo.

Ahanmisi, whose Bulldogs pulled off a surprise title sweep in a preseason tournament.

Pinto said the Bulldogs' run wasn't just cause for him; the time in Cotabato City, Tournament MVP, Eric Abalos, Jireh Arellano, Dominic Villamor and Mark de Guzman saved all opposed to play physical rules.

"I have to put individual goals aside," said Pinto. "Everybody has each other's back and everybody has the green light to shoot. We have that confidence."

For Tamaraws, last year's runner-up, hope to begin to step with the injury figure rose with top guard RR Garcia coming off an injury.

"He will play but he's not 100 percent in shape," FEU coach Bert Flores said of Garcia, who injured his ankle last month.

The Tigers, stationed by Pido Jarencio, return with guard Jeric Teehankee leading a veteran core that includes Jeric Teng, Clark Bautista, Alvin Mamaru, Kevin Ferrer and Karim Abdul.

"Most of us have been together for at least two years," said Teehankee. "We're among the veterans now this year."

MBA CBS Sports will air the games live on Studio 23, Balls HD Skycable channel 167, The Filipino Channel (TFC) and live stream (upon.ph/upsports).

BOSSY Ray Parks says he will sacrifice individual goals for the team's goal of winning the championship. ALEXANDER DE JESUS

Clean JRU slate faces strong SSC challenge

By Cedrik P. Tapay

JOSE Rizal U—the only unbeaten team in the NCAA tournament—faces its toughest test yet when it clashes with powerhouse San Sebastian today at the Filoil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Heroes seek their fourth straight victory in the 6 p.m. duel with the Stags, who are looking to extend their winning run to three games after dropping their first assignment.

Uptown and Architecture—two teams coming off victories against traditional powerhouses in the league—battle in the first session game at 4 p.m.

The Pirates are targeting a third straight victory after bringing down Mapua, 78-74, in a thrilling duel Thursday night.

As in their previous victories, the Pirates' chances will hinge on the performance of backcourt players Chris Cayabyab and Shane Ko, who tallied a career-high 22 points in the win against the Cardinals.

The Clash are coming off one of the biggest upsets of the season when they trounced Letran, 77-67, last Tuesday behind Filipino-Canadian guard James Forrester delivering 19 points and 11 rebounds.

The spotlight will be on JRU gunner Ben Mbala, whose early-season explosion has boosted coach Siegel Menorca' Realtors to their finest start in years.

On his fourth playing year, the 6-foot-11 Mbala is averaging 25 points in the Boosters' first three games, built on a remarkable 15 of 23 shooting from beyond the arc.

The Heroes have four fat hitters: Mapua (10.6-6), Jacobson (7.7-7.67) and EAC (86.75).

San Sebastian senior Ian Sangalang has been throwing his weight around, posting 22 points per game, while last year's MVP Calvin Abueva has also chipped in monster numbers of 18.7 points, 15.3 rebounds and 7.7 assists.

OLYMPIC PARTNER Philippine Olympic team chef-de-mission Monico Lopez (second from left) and Smart Sports marketing manager Epok Quimpo shake hands after signing an agreement making Smart Sports an official partner of the London-bound PH team squad. With them in photo are Ryan Buenvida (right) of Smart Sports and PH team administrative officer Arsenio Lacson.

Griffin hurt, out of US hoop team

LAS VEGAS—Blake Griffin is out of Olympic-bound US men's basketball team due to torn cartilage in his left knee.

Griffin left the US camp and returned to Los Angeles on Thursday, where an evaluation by doctors of his Los Angeles Clippers team determined he will require arthroscopic surgery.

The Americans will be able to replace him on their 12-man Olympic roster, with Anthony Davis likely to be brought in.

"Missing out on the Olympic experience will be tough for him to take. I know how dedicated he was to doing this," Clippers coach Vinny Del Negro said in a statement.

The United States men's basketball team stand up for the Olympics with a 113-99 win of the Dominican Republic in an exhibition game on Thursday.

Kevin Durant led 24 points and 10 rebounds. The MVP of the world basketball championships two years ago, Durant came off the bench to shoot nine of 11 from the field, making five of six three-pointers in 22 minutes.

Andre Iguodala added 18 points and Carmelo Anthony had 13 for the Americans.

All-Star Jrue Holiday of the Atlanta Hawks shot one of 12 and the Dominican effort NBA player, Francisco Garcia, missed all three attempts. AP

Move over Phelps, here comes Basketball Team USA

SACRAMENTO, California—Swimmer Michael Phelps and his quest for the most Olympic medals in history, and Usain Bolt, the world's fastest human, are billed as the marquee names of the 2012 London Olympics.

But the United States men's basketball team is likely to end up as the main attraction when Britain's version of the "greatest show on earth" website has its say.

Having to defend the gold medal from Beijing in 2008, Basketball Team USA, according to Las Vegas bookies, is the most athletic crew formed for the Olympics.

Team chair Jerry Colangelo says there is "no comparison" between this year's Team and the 1992 "Dream Team," arguably the greatest squad ever assembled in organized basketball.

The current team's confidence is so sky-high that guard Kobe Bryant reckons up the overseas one-sided, he says the London lineup that includes him can beat the nine legendary members Olympic team led by Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Charles Barkley, among others.

"It'd be a tough one, but I think we'd pull it out," said the Black Mamba, not scheduling styles when it comes to designing the competitive edges of the current crop of Olympians.

Kobe said strikes during the Brooklyn-based team's first practice games last week that Jordan and company would have the size advantage. But what the 2012 team lacks in size, it makes up for athleticism and years of fit, said Bryant.

The Los Angeles Lakers said although the 2012 team is running some of his best players due to injury, it's still expected to dominate the Olympics basketball tournament—the 50th document of its world-class players this summer.

Kobe says this year's edition is vastly more versatile and athletic than the team 20 years ago, when Johnson and Bird were in town at the twilight of their careers.

Not in the lineup due to serious hurts are Derrick Rose, in Warren Aldridge and key Beijing campaigners Dwight Howard, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

That leaves Jrue Chandler as the only injured player not even enrolled with point guards. Jrue Kobe insists the team has enough depth, and Coach Mike Krzyzewski agrees that the team has plenty of experienced guys "from which to draw to make the right decisions" on the 12 men to take to London.

Here's the Team USA 2012 of veteran NBA campaigners: Stoner, NBA Finals MVP LeBron James, Andre Iguodala, James Harden, Deron Williams, Russell Westbrook, Chris Paul, Kevin Durant, Kevin Love, Tyson Chandler, Blake Griffin and Carmelo Anthony.

Ranged against the 11 in London are teams likewise laden with NBA talent and strength gift to get going and knock off the Americans. Three-subside 2000 gold medalist Argentina, honored by Manu Ginobili and Luis Scola; the Spanish national team, last year's silver medalist led by the Gasol brothers, Marc and Pau, and NBA shot blocking king Serge Ibaka; and Brazil, powered by Nenê, Tiago Splitter and Anderson Varejão.

Argentina, Spain and Brazil are the world's best exponents of Olympic as international brand of basketball, a new ecumenically-in-some USA team members.

Among others, Olympic basketball has a five-foot substitution limit, under hoop, shorter three-point lines, and is more talent of physical play.

* * *

His days as a collegiate, national and NBA star gave him glory. His desire to serve after basketball followed his opportunities big time.

Now, Jose Bernardo Tengo, after one terms as a member of the Nueva Ecija provincial board, is saddled with Bonacical challenges. His wife, Joy her kidneys failing, has to go through hemodialysis three times a week.

At title me he is grateful for the support of family and some friends, including his namesake Sen. Jose "Jinggoy" Estrada and former senator and now spouse Loi Ejercito Estrada.

Should former teammates and basketball colleagues wish to contact JB, he can be reached at 0917-8442806.

SOUTHPAW

Percy O. Della

Ilas, Dy bag Junior World plums

SAN DIEGO, California—Bernice Oliveros-Ilas and Joel Dy established to the Asian domination of the California Junior World golf championships here by finishing out convincing victories in their respective divisions and pulling Team Philippines with two titles here Thursday (Friday Manila time).

The 19-year-old Oliveros-Ilas engaged three California kids in a virtual shootout and endured some trying moments before pulling through.

She closed with a one-over-par 37 at the Lomas Santa Fe executive course—good enough for a two-stroke victory on a 54-hole aggregate of 307 in the girls' 17-18 years category.

Dy banished back from a four-shot deficit overnight—and seven after the first round—with an eagle-birdie five-under 57 to nip Thailand's Wil Pijun by a stroke in the final 7-8 pairs at the Otay Ranch course.

The incoming third graders at Chinese International School-Manila hit all nine greens in regulation in a flawless front nine, ranking two birdies on the second and fourth holes and an eagle on the eighth for a four-under card to deuce level with Pijun, who had it even in the turn.

Dy ordered the final nail on the 15th on a two-putt by Pijun only to give it back on the next hole which he bogeyed and the Thai birdied. Then came the crucial turnaround on the 16th hole, which Dy birdied from five feet and Pijun bogeyed after missing the green.

The Thai refused to give up, countering Dy's birdie on the 17th, and almost forged a title playoff on the last hole when he left himself with a short birdie putt.

Dy two-putted from 12 feet for par to claim his first victory in the annual event that gathered 1,300 junior players from 32 countries.

Ilas finished with a 184 total after rounds of 6th and 42 while Pijun, who led the first two rounds with a 59 and 64, fell three with 185.

JED Oy, the 7-8 division world champion, with coach Mike Cruz. On the right, Bernice Oliveros-Ilas lands the big one in the 9-10 class.

Besides untethered the challenge in the final round by California heir Sahira Sukimura (33-36=69) Kanah Sandford (35-37=72) and Ashley Park (36-37=73).

Park drew level with Ilas on the fourth before finished tied for the lead on the 12th but the Filipina youngster's consistency thwarted them.

Flown to the US by the country's flagcarrier Philippine Airlines and supported by the International Terminal Container Services, Inc., the Philippine team also posted class other top 10 finishes.

Mia Legaspi and Sam Martinez fired a 68 and a 70, respectively, to tie for seventh in the girls' 13-14 years at 215.

Hannie Sheila Gumaneten closed with a 75 and tied for ninth in the girls' 11-12 with a 226 total.

"It's a great day for Philippine golf," said Luigi Taborara, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of Philippines. "We're back to the championship club here in the Junior World. Joel and Bernice deserve their victories because of all the hardwork they've done for their campaigns in the US."

The twin victories highlighted the Asian domination of the championships that also saw Thailand win two titles (girls' 9 under and boys' 11-12), China (boys' nine boys' 13-14 and girls' 15-18), Japan (boys nine girls' 7-8), and Australia securing the boys' 9-10.

Thailand is also poised to win the girls' 15-17 class, where Anelia Unsoi (72-222) and Princess Supreni (75-222) tied behind the leading Pinoy Sunny Hooyeonh.

Gio Gaerlowee, meanwhile, finally broke par with a 70 as Torrey Pines heads to improve to a share of 13th place.

Nonito: I fell in love with my power

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DONAIRE shows his cut-after left hand.

WBO and IBF super bantamweight champion Nonito Donaire Jr. yesterday told the boxing fans that he abandoned a vital part of his game plan in an attempt to harness once a knockout victory over Jeffrey Mathebula.

Donaire said he hopes to get back to training soon to prepare for his next bout.

"I fell in love with the power (pressing from his foot)," Donaire said. "When I knocked him down, I thought I could do it again, instead of saving it up like what (trainer) Robert (Garcia) told me.

"The thing that I did it (to save) threw me straight. It would have been different if I was able to keep doing it, but I wanted a spectacular knockout."

Donaire wants to correct that flaw the soonest he can head back to the gym.

"As soon as my hand heals I want to go back to training," he said.

Top Rank already lined up Mexican boxer Luis Lizarraga as Donaire's next opponent in the U.S. on October 6.

Lizarraga is only a "stunt fight."

"I wasn't even in good balance but that stream knocked him out," Donaire said. "If I hit him like how (trainer) Normando Montes La (he said) never get up. But it's hard because he's tall and he was running away."

Donaire said he's willing to fight anybody even Cuban Guillermo Rigondeaux. The amateur star with two Olympic golds but refuses pressure to largely-unrated Abril to get his attention by calling him a "coward."

The boxer dubbed as Filipino Flash said: "Top Rank is going for anyone who is ranked on their table. Other guys will have to wait."

Donaire weathered the challenge in the first round by California heir Sahira Sukimura (33-36=69) Kanah Sandford (35-37=72) and Ashley Park (36-37=73).

Park drew level with Ilas on the fourth before finished tied for the lead on the 12th but the Filipina youngster's consistency thwarted them.

CONTROL TITLE QUEST Kerwan Mabay-Kim (inset, right) will lead the TRS Control team of the motorized Mike Rakem (inset, left) in tomorrow's fourth leg of the Philippine GT championship at Clark International Speedway. A product of the TRS Cup last year, Kim passes the GT-VX division with a 48-point lead over his nearest rival. "Mike (Kim) has been a consistent podium finisher in the past three races but this time, we asked him to step up because we saw there's something more in him that needs to be unleashed," said Tanson who continues to power up his diverse Control Mazda RX-7 (above) to cope with regulation changes that favor turbo-charged vehicles. The team is supported by Control, Betagenome, Standard Insurance, Coke Zero, Oakley Tapes, ONE C! Magazine, Speedtalk, and Agoda Auto Shop.

Sharks, Dolphins start title duel

By Marc Anthony Reyes

"Game 3 is very important because this is a do-or-die," said Cebu Sharks manager Rene Hawkins.

The Dolphins were two of their three games against the Sharks this season as Manila gasped for form in the absence of national players Jeyjun Robles and Charlie Lobrados.

"The momentum is on our side," said Joebil Belarmo, Manila's manager. "We are hoping to sustain our intensity in the finals."

The Sharks drawn of the Dolphins for the first 6 and Series 6 previously.

Cebu will battle on former Assumed Pareja, Sam Casey Alipio and Mingo Cortanera. Harbe Joseph Orillosa is a doubtful starter, though, after injuring his left knee three weeks ago.

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Bolts trim Llamados; TNT alive

By Mueng B. Castillo

ORMS Rose fired up the Hotshots offense in the first period and then fortified B-Meg in the dying seconds as the Bolts hung on to post a 104-101 upset of the Llamados last night in the PBA Governors' Cup semifinals at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Rose scored 13 first quarter points when the Bolts took control and then had a key three-point play and the steal that sealed their first win in the round as Meneleo denied the Llamados the chance to earn at least a playoff for the second championship berth.

Talk N Text stayed in the morning for the semifinal incentive after holding off defending champion Ginebra San Miguel, 103-94, in the second game.

The Tropang Texters, at 7-3, won a second straight game in the series and an extra halfway through sending themselves of the 6-of-Llamados.

Meneleo came into the game with nothing more to lose, and unlike two nights ago when it was Hotbox against none more Talk N Text, the Bolts were all business as they took hold of as many as 15 points in the third period before holding off the Llamados in the stretch.

The Bolts' fifth win in 11 matches prevented the Llamados from gaining a free pass to with idle Bolts or Shoguns with B-Meg losing for the first time to the semifinals to cling to 8-4, now tied with idle Barangay Ginebra.

The Llamados and the Gin Kings just ways remain now in the main game to the semifinals line to homestretch.

Meneleo closes out its season against defensive champion Petron Blaze also tomorrow noon as the Elasto Painters get their last two chances to seal a first-ever title series win on Monday against Talk N Text and B-Meg on Wednesday.

"Character is tested when nothing is on the line," said Meneleo coach Ryan Gregorio, who dedicated the win to team owner Manny V. Pangilinan who celebrates his birthday today.

Sol Mercado finished with 30 points, while Rose had 16, with his final three points in the last 6.7 seconds giving the Bolters 102-100 lead.

James Yap hit a triple off the glass less than three seconds later to give the Llamados one more chance to forge overtime, but Rose broke up the potential game-tying play when he picked a weak inbound by Sonny de Ocampo to Josh Urbiztondo as time expired.

HEMALECO'S Asi Taulava tries to dunk off B-Meg's Marcio Mateko

Bayron fires a 68, moves up to second

JAKARTA—The Philippines' Jay Bayron fired a four-under-par 68 spiked by an eagle-three on the par-five ninth Friday and moved up to second place, three shots behind Malaysia's Nicholas Fung after the second round of the inaugural Mr. Maybank AEC Challenge on Friday.

Fung matched Bayron's mood as he heads into the third and final round of the $50,000 Asian Development Tour (ADT) event with a 10-under-par 134 total at Imperial Golf Club.

Bayron, who opened with a third-scoring 69 Thursday, posted 137, one shot clear of local hope Benny Retiadi, who signed for a 68.

Singapore's Mitchell Blewett posted a 69 and joined fourth, with five players, including Chinese Taipei's Chiang Chen-shih, Australia's Dale Hitch and Tim Steward, Indonesia's Aprendi Sasaibe and Sri Lanka's Anura Rohana sharing fifth on 140.

Fung, the first-round leader with a 66, gunned down four birdies, including three on the first seven holes.

"I'm very happy with how I've played today as it was very windy," said Fung. "I managed to hit the ball well and only missed a couple of short puts."

"There's always going to be pressure especially when you head into the final round with the lead. I'll try to do my best and hopefully the result will come," added the Malaysian.

A record total of 12 events will be played this season with the top three finishers on the Order of Merit entering Asian Tour cards for 2013.

Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

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Nobel winner backs calls to free 'Mali'

Time to release Manila zoo's lone elephant, says writer J.M. Coetzee

By TJ Burgonio

THE CAMPAIGN to free "Mali" continues to draw international support, this time from the literary world.

Taking up the cause of an animal rights watchdog, 2003 Nobel Prize winner J.M. Coetzee has appealed to Philippine officials to have Manila zoo's lone elephant transferred to a sanctuary in Thailand.

"I am writing in support of the campaign to remove this elephant Mali from the zoo in Manila, where she has spent the past 35 years, to a place of safety," the Nobel laureate said in a letter to the Department of Agriculture.

The Izod chapter of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) welcomed excerpts of Coetzee's letter in a press statement yesterday.

"Thirty-five years is a heavy sentence to bear, longer than is served by most murderers. Mali has paid the penalty for not being fortunate enough to be born human. Now it is time to release her," Peta quoted the novelist as saying.

Coetzee won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2003 and the Booker Prize in 1983 and 1999. His acclaimed works include "Waiting for the Barbarians," "The Lives of Animals," "Elizabeth Costello," "Diary of a Bad Year" and "Summertime." Coetzee was born in South Africa but is now a citizen of Australia.

Also in support of Peta, British rock icon Morrissey wrote President Aquino in May asking for the release of the 7-ton Mali, who was a three-year-old orphan taken brought to Manila in 1980 as a gift from the Sri Lankan government to then First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Also in May, Peta hosted in Manila Uttara — elephant veterinarian Shreya Richardson, who also called for Mali's transfer to a sanctuary, saying the animal was suffering from potentially fatal foot problems in his mostly concrete enclosure.

Zoo officials, however, maintained that Mali was doing fine at the zoo and that the animal might not survive in the wild.

Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr. has convened a multisectoral committee to study the proposals and advised agriculture and environment officials in Luzon to facilitate her immediate transfer to a sanctuary subject to the outcome of their study.

Peta contends that Mali has been denied the needed stimulation, a mistake in captives, the companionship of other elephants, and other natural elements needed by such an animal.

The group said Mali had endured intense confinement, loneliness, boredom, and isolation in an area that was just a tiny fraction of the size of her natural habitat.

Reached for comment, director Theresa Mundita Lim of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau said the agency would support any plan to bring Mali back to Sri Lanka or any sanctuary abroad on certain conditions.

In a position paper, DENR said it would support Mali's transfer if she's physically fit to survive the transfer and is free from any contagious diseases.

Considering that Mali is in her productive age, she should also be protected from possible "genetic contamination" if ever transferred, the paper added.

"She should not be mixed with other subspecies of elephants," Lim explained.

Should Sri Lanka refuse to take Mali back, DENR said Peta's proposal to bring her to a sanctuary in Thailand may also be considered.

"A facility that will separate Mali from elephants of non-Sri Lankan origin must also be provided in the Thailand sanctuary," DENR said.

ACCLAIMED novelist J.M. Coetzee writes of Manila zoo's 35-year-old, 7-ton resident: "Mali has paid the penalty for not being fortunate enough to be born human." | AP

'Hataw' tabloid man gets whacked with homicide raps

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A TABLOID columnist was charged with homicide on Thursday in the Manila city prosecutor's office for allegedly stabbing his neighbor dead in a fight over the latter's parked pedicab.

Sabino Sid Hong Chan, 42, was also charged with physical injuries for hitting the victim's wife in the head with his 9-mm pistol on Tuesday night.

Chan, who claimed that he acted in self-defense, was held for killing Roberto Gonzaga, a 49-year-old pedicab driver, and for wounding Gonzaga's wife Adora.

Gonzaga, who sustained 13 stab wounds, was declared dead on arrival at Jose Abad Santos Hospital while his wife was treated for head injuries.

Chan, a columnist for the tabloid Hataw, was arrested shortly after the incident which took place at around 10 p.m. in front of his house on Reina Regente, a narrow street in Barangay 293, Zone 30, in Binondo.

Case investigator PO3 Rodel Bernave said it all started from a misunderstanding between the neighbors after Gonzaga left his pedicab parked on the street, blocking the path of Chan who was then driving his sports utility vehicle.

Bernave said Chan got off his vehicle and started to push the pedicab to the side of the street. Gonzaga saw this and confronted Chan, until their heated exchange led to a fist fight.

Gonzaga allegedly pulled out a knife but the columnist managed to wrest the weapon out of Gonzaga's hand and then used it to stab him repeatedly.

The victim's wife, who witnessed the fight, then rushed out of her house and assaulted Chan, who then pistol-whipped her.

Chan did not leave the scene and waited for the police, while the Gonzaga couple were rushed to the hospital.

In an interview with the Inquirer at the SIPO homicide section office, Chan said he only acted in self-defense, showing the bruises he sustained from the fight.

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OPENS JULY 19 AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

Baby's cries serve as fire alarm in Mandaluyong

Homes under Manila bridge also razed

By Nilo Calleja and Jeannette I. Andrade

THE CRIES of a one-month-old baby alerted a couple to the fire that would leave dreamy-eyed Jemboy and some 10 more families homeless in Mandaluyong City early Friday authorities said.

Chief Insp. Francis Tembudanis, head of the city's arson investigation unit, said the infant was of one Francisco Magalonia and his wife several doors from the burnt bungalow on Block 38, Daisy Street, near Macliton Highway in Barangay Addition Hills.

The fire started at around 1:30 a.m. at the room the Magalonia family was renting and quickly spread to the next houses.

"We were afraid that the fire would cover a large portion of Barangay Addition Hills," Tembudanis said, noting that the affected area was a maze of large shanty-town in the area.

Barrio officials and residents were quick to respond and prevented the fire from getting out of control.

Fire investigators suspected that the blaze was caused by a candle that toppled over or was left unattended inside the Magalonia residence as the family slept.

The house didn't have a power supply, Tembudanis said.

The officers said previous fires in Addition Hills had also been caused by candles. One fire that broke out in April killed a baby, he recalled.

Before dawn on Friday, Magalonia's baby cried in pain as the flames started to spread, waking the parents from their sleep and enabling them to escape, Tembudanis said.

In Manila, fire officials also believed that a candle caused yesterday's predawn fire that destroyed the homes of some 350 families living under the Magdalena bridge in Sta. Mesa. No one was reported injured.

SFO2 Emmanuel Caspar of the Manila Fire District said the fire started at around 3:20 a.m. from the house of Inday Corneta at 2131 Ninth Magdalena Street.

METROBRIEFS

Suspect tagged in Globe account exec's slay

POLICE have identified one of the suspects in the killing of Globe Telecom account executive Adelaida Reyes, 33, who was shot in front of his condominium in Ortigas Center, Pasig City on June 24. SPO1 Jaime Jimena of the Ortigas City Police District said murder charges had been filed in the prosecutor's office against Lapiz Mark Anthony Villanueva, who remains at large and is also facing charges for kidnapping in a Makati City court. Jimena said that apart from eyewitnesses who recognized Villanueva as one of Reyes's killers, the suspect's ex-is-partner, Yvonne Wong, told police that he had sent text messages to Reyes about the money the victim supposedly owed him. Nancy C. Carvajal

Asistio son spending weekend in jail

A CCTV of former Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio, who was arrested in Caloocan City on Wednesday, will have to spend the weekend in jail, according to his representative failed to present a release order issued by the court for his temporary liberty, a jail officer said on Friday. The lawyers also learned that Luis Asistio Jr. warrant-related after a beating of probative cause in connection with a 2008 robbery case—and not after being convicted on the same offense, as what the city police chief said in an interview on Thursday. Asistio Jr., who needs to post bail at P100,000 to leave detention, is accused of robbing and assaulting businessman Jose De Mesa Mo in a hotel in Malabon City in August 2008. Kristine Felizze Marquez

Gov't exec's wife a heavy gambler

A FORMER Mora rebel turned barangay chairman, Dandam Sinsuat Samad alias "Tawlakman," and 31 other detainees escaped recently from the Maguindanao provincial jail, in a controversy on the effectiveness of the country's jail guards.

And, let's not forget the casualties of our jails which are virtual pigsties.

Detainees are able to escape, given the chance, because of the oddimmane conditions inside all the country's jails.

The inefficiency of the jail guards at the Maguindanao provincial jail, located in Goodman City, is matched by the ineptitude of the city police whose headquarters are a few kilometers from the jail.

Both the jail guards and the police were sleeping on the job.

I have this sneaky suspicion that the jail guards were bribed by Samad, who earned a pile from extortion and kidnapping activities.

* * *

In the wake of Samad's escape from the Maguindanao provincial jail to Cotabato City, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo came out with a proposal to have all provincial jails in the country placed under the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

The BJMP, which is under the Department of Interior and Local Government, manages all city and municipal jails.

Provincial governments, on the other hand, run all provincial jails.

Provincial jail guards are employed by the provincial government.

Robredo says BJMP guards are "professional and highly trained."

"We all, some BJMP guards are professional and highly trained... in approaching rich inmates so they will have better accommodations in jail!

Instead, or relatives of inmates in city and municipal jails allegedly pay BJMP guards and officials a certain amount to be allowed in.

If you ask me, provincial jail guards and BJMP guards are made of the same mold.

* * *

At first glance, Davao City Vice Mayor Rudy Duterte was wrong to mobilize a suspect to the side of fake land rides out his own fake downpours.

But when you consider that the man has victimized thousands of unwitting poor people who wanted to own a piece of land to build their house on, you will probably laugh and say, "Buti nga sa kanya (serves him right)."

The man is the worst kind of criminal because he cheats from the poor.

The controversial Duterte did what the victims would have done to the man who fooled them.

They could have done worse.

The guy is lucky he is still alive in a city that is practically crime-free because notorious criminals fear to roam the streets.

* * *

The wife of an official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) reportedly loses hundreds of thousands of pesos in the casino every day, according to my sources inside the agency.

The question is, where does the wife get the gambling money?

All right, she and her husband reportedly have a small business, but it is impossible for it to earn hundreds of thousands of pesos every day for her to throw away.

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Ambassador Melchor remembered in FEU today

THE ALEJANDRO Melchor Jr. Foundation in collaboration with Far Eastern University will hold "Pathways to Leadership: Young Leaders Conference" today to mark Melchor's 10th death anniversary, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at FEU-EEC conference center. A commemorative Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ruperto Santos, D.D., at 11 a.m., followed by a luncheon with Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson as guest speaker. Melchor Jr. served in government for more than 50 years, under nine presidents as a Navy officer, acting secretary of defense, executive secretary, and ambassador to Russia.

Forecast of pilot shortage raises safety concerns

WASHINGTON—An industry forecast that nearly half a million new airline pilots will be needed worldwide over the next 20 years as airlines expand their fleets has raised safety concerns that airlines will hire heavy out, then pilots as they struggle to fill slots.

Boeing, one of the world's largest makers of commercial jetliners, forecasts about 460,000 new pilots will be needed to meet industry turnover now and 2031 as global economies expand and airlines take deliveries of tens of thousands of new commercial jet liners. The forecast includes 60,000 new pilots in the North American, mostly in the United States. The greatest growth will be in the Asia-Pacific region, where an estimated 185,000 new pilots will be needed.

Likewise, Boeing predicts 653,000 new aircraft maintenance technicians will be needed over the same period, with greatest demand—240,500 technicians—in the Asia-Pacific region. An estimated 92,500 new technicians will locate hangars.

The rising global demand for airline pilots has raised concerns among industry and government officials that there will be a global and a domestic pilot shortage.

"In many regions of the world, a pilot shortage is already here," the Boeing forecast said. "Asia-Pacific in particular is experiencing delays and operational interruptions due to pilot scheduling constraints."

That's particularly true in China and India, industry officials said. Airlines based in Asia and the Middle East have been holding pilot job fairs in the United States and thousands of pilots have left due to US airline headquarters and mergers are now flying for foreign carriers.

"We have airlines around the world in they buy our airplanes and come to us on the training side of the house, saying 'We're struggling to fill pilots' seats. Can you help us?'" said Carl Davis, Boeing's chief of pilot services. Davis presented the company's forecast on Thursday at a conference in Washington on pilot training hosted by the Air Line Pilots Association, the world's largest pilot union.

US industry and government officials are also concerned that the rising global demand for pilots, combined with an anticipated wave in pilot retirements and tougher qualifications standards for new pilots that kids in need jobs, will create a domestic shortage as well.

"I'm concerned because it has safety implications," John Allen, the Federal Aviation Administration's director of flight services, told The Associated Press.

Allen said he wants to open a discussion among industry labor unions and academia about a potential shortage that will "really look at this and address it, and to plan coverage to make the regional airlines a problem? And, if it is a problem, how bad is it?"

He said he is fearful that if there is a shortage, airlines will hire pilots who are technically qualified but don't have the "right stuff."

"If the industry is convinced pretty that ... their only result is consumer getting into the systems that maybe isn't really the right person to be a pilot then everybody is supposed to be a pilot," Allen said.

Joan Medlen, a spokesperson for Airlines for America, responding to Allen's comments, said "Safety is always our top priority and our airlines hire pilots that meet the rigorous standards set by the FAA." The International Air Transport Association didn't respond to a request for comment.

Lee Moak, president of the pilots union, said he doubts a pilot shortage will be felt in the United States for about three to five years. If US airlines start hiring pilots in large numbers, he said, pilots were flying for foreign carrier will likely return home. There are currently about 90,000 airline pilots in the United States and Canada.

"Globally is another matter," Moak said. AP

UN, Congolese gunships attack M23 rebels

A M23 rebel fighter mans a machine gun at a defense position in Kanaruki, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in north Goma province, near the border with Uganda, on July 12. REUTERS

RUBAVU/GOMA, DR Congo—The United Nations and Democratic Republic of Congo troops used helicopter gunships on Thursday to attack army warheads thought to be threatening the main eastern city of Goma.

Three helicopters from the UN country mission and two from the DRC Army (FARDC) were seen around the villages of Munigi and Bukima, where the so-called M23 rebels are thought to have positions.

The UN and the Congolese Army used M24 and M25 helicopters flown by Ukrainian pilots. The gunships, first made by the Soviet Union, carried full tanks with 57mm rounds and Shkval rockets, a UN source said.

"We made several passes to rebel positions," the UN official said.

The United Nations and the troops from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which claims the rebels are a Rwandan proxy, fell under a deployed force mounted Goma in World War provision.

However, the rebels said they had no plans to seize the regional capital and only wanted to negotiate with the government in Kinshasa.

The FARDC are currently attacking rear positions, but they don't know where the rebels are. There's no problem," a colonel from the rebels told AFP.

The M23 rebels—named after a failed 2009 peace deal signed on March 23—are led by Bosco Ntaganda, nicknamed the "Terminator," who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for recruiting child soldiers a decade ago.

His rise caused and forces from Thomas Lubanga was sentenced to 14 years in jail on Tuesday.

The crackdown on rebels rules were interpreted into the regular Army in 2009 as part of a deal that followed their failed 2008 offensive on Goma, under the command of Tutsi leader General Nkunda.

They deserted in April, ostensibly over pay, but experts argue Ntaganda and his men are fleeing military moves to clinch border rights over the area's lucrative mines.

In Thursday's gunship strikes, a group of women working in fields near Kibumba were caught in the crossfire. AFP

US slaps additional sanctions on Iran

WASHINGTON—The Obama administration, seeking to plug loopholes in its sanctions against Iran, said on Thursday that it would impose additional measures against more than a dozen companies and people involved in that country's nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

The administration also identified a web of front companies that it says the Iranian government uses to try to evade US and European restrictions on its oil exports.

The measures, announced by the Treasury Department, are intended to tighten the vise on Iran, which has steadfastly defied the West over its nuclear program despite evidence that the sanctions are damaging its oil industry and economy.

"Today's actions are the next step on that path, taking direct aim at disrupting Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile activities and its ability to interpose efforts to use front companies to hide and move its oil," David S. Cohen, the undersecretary of the Treasury for terrorism and financial intelligence, said in a statement.

But the new sanctions also underscore the challenges the US faces in isolating Iran, which has loudly spun off hundreds of front companies, and retained or re-flagged dozens of ships, to get around existing sanctions.

"This is really a game of whack-a-mole," said Mark Dubowitz, the executive director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and an expert on Iranian sanctions. "Every new action you take causes Iran to innovate. What we needed now was measures now also to accurate weather than these targeted, pinpoint measures."

Among the companies designated by the Treasury are Electronic Components Industries and Advanced Technical Institute, which are subsidiaries of an entity that is, in turn, controlled by the Iranian Ministry of Defense. The companies work on semiconductors, circuit boards and maintenance computers that have both civilian and military uses.

Also designated by the Treasury are four Iranians and an Iranian—first the Treasury Department said support Iran's nuclear and missile programs. Under the sanctions, Americans are barred from doing business with these individuals, and any assets they have under US jurisdiction are frozen. BLOOMBERG

Potent form of common child illness deadly in Asia

HANOI, VIETNAM—Tran Minh Giang has spent more than a third of his young life in a Vietnamese hospital, and it could be many months more before he can go home. All for a disease that in Asia is as common as chicken pox, and usually about as severe.

The 26-month-old boy was sickened by a particularly menacing form of hand, foot and mouth disease that has killed hundreds of young children across the region. They sometimes suffer high fevers, bursts vomiting, paralysis and respiratory failure, even though they may have been infected by people with few or no symptoms.

When the strain hit Cambodia recently, doctors there had no idea what it was. And even now experts don't fully understand why it can be so devastating. Seven months after becoming sick, Giang still breathes using a ventilator connected to a hole in his tracheal.

"It may take time, maybe years, before he can recover. When he sleeps, his lungs don't work," his father, Tran Hoai Giang, said on Thursday while hunting the toddler. "When he first got a high fever, I didn't think that he would be in a situation like this."

The outbreak in Vietnam, as EV71, started from earlier this week when it was detected in some lab samples taken after 51 of 56 Cambodian children died suddenly from a severe illness that sparked international alarm. The World Health Organization said on Tuesday on Thursday that its investigation has found most cases were caused by the disease.

An report at the 109 health agency earlier said it's the first time EV 71 had been identified to the country, but it's a well-known pathogen elsewhere in Asia. In the first half of this year alone, 356 people in China and 13 in Vietnam have died from it.

The scale of the disease was clear last week in the crowded general floor of a hospital in Danang's Son Tra district. Many overflow Dozens of crying children were packed into two small rooms, sitting in long on chairs with IV drips hooked in them. Illness reported 10 head, foot and mouth disease deaths in May, a quarter of the country's total that month.

The disease has exploded across the region since 1997, when the first major outbreak was reported in Malaysia. Since then, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Mongolia, Taiwan and Australia have all ravaged with it.

EV-71 is one of a group of viruses that cause the disease, but it has become a more dominant strain over the past decade in Asia. Still, only a small percentage of children infected experience severe symptoms, and experts aren't exactly sure why. There is no vaccine or specific treatment to cure it, but in most cases are given supportive care and blood pressure are also sometimes administered intravenously.

"There's a buildup of that susceptible population, like many viruses, and this happens to be the children who have not been exposed to different types of enteroviruses before," said Dr. Zaidah Hussain Rasti, consultant of a WHO report on hand, foot and mouth disease and medical director at a Malaysia based Hermefa company researching a vaccine for it. "Thus this buildup when you have explosive in a way that suddenly you get severe cases of EV-71."

She said it's unclear why it remains largely confined to certain parts of Asia—India and Indonesia, for instance, have not reported large outbreaks—and it's not understood if EV-71 is more infectious or just huge, just less clear at invading the neurological system than other strains.

The disease is in the same family as polio and can in some cases be the telltale symptoms it causes, including rash, mouth sores and blisters covering the hands and feet. It mainly affects children younger than 5, and is difficult to control because it spreads easily through crowding, coughing and contact with fluid from sores in infected them.

In densely crowded schools, it's nearly impossible to keep little fingered hands from coming into contact with other children and everything they touch. Another problem is that many infected kids never get sick, but they can still transmit the virus to others. Frequent hand washing and disinfection of toys and surfaces are advised, and sometimes schools are forced to close to help halt the spread.

The first EV-71 infection with neurological symptoms was reported in California in 1969. Outbreaks have since occurred periodically in the US and Europe, but the disease has been a stubborn nemesis in Asia, typically occurring in cycles. AP

Yahoo breach exposes 400,000 user passwords

YAHOO Inc. offices in California REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO—Another month, another major security breach.

Yahoo confirmed on Thursday that about 400,000 user names and passwords to Yahoo and other companies' accounts were compromised.

A group of hackers, known as the D33D Co., posted online the user names and passwords for what appeared to be 453,492 accounts belonging to Yahoo and several other websites. The hackers wrote a brief backnote to the data dump, which has since been taken offline: "We hope that the parties responsible for managing the security of this information will take this as a wake up call, and act it as a threat."

The breach comes just one month after millions of user passwords for LinkedIn, the online social network for professionals, were exposed by hackers who breached its systems. The breaches highlight the ease with which hackers are able to infiltrate systems, even at some of the most widely used and sophisticated technology companies.

Security firm Sophos, a researcher at Rapid7, a security company, found that among the data were some 106,000 Gmail e-mail addresses, 61,000 Hotmail e-mail addresses and 25,000 AOL e-mail addresses. There e-mail accounts were not hacked; instead people had used their e-mail addresses as user names for a Yahoo service.

Sarsfield, a company that checks for malware, set up a website, lets.mecan.be/?=[website], that lets concerned users check if their account details were compromised in the breach.

Hans Aragbeck, a spokesperson for Yahoo, said that the compromised accounts belonged to Yahoo's Contributor Network, previously Associated Content, and that Yahoo "has taken the necessary steps to protect users' accounts and will require affected users to change their passwords."

Chris Gobbler, a spokesperson for Google, said Google immediately reset passwords for vulnerable Gmail accounts.

The hackers claimed to have stolen the passwords using a hashing technique called an SQL injection, which exploits a software vulnerability.

"We are fixing the vulnerability that led to the disclosure of this data, changing the passwords of the affected Yahoo users and notifying companies whose user accounts may have been compromised," Aragbeck said in the statement. AP/WSJ

Manila Water

NOTICE TO MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS

Effective fifteen (15) days after publication, Manila Water will implement a 0.76% Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) of the basic charge. Low-income households consuming 10 cubic meters a month or less will be exempt from the adjustment.

REGULATORY APPROVAL

The adjustment in FCDA was approved by the METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS) thru Board Resolution No. 2012-078 dated June 28, 2012, confirming MWSS Regulatory Office Resolution No. 12-004-CA.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism formulated to account for foreign exchange losses or gains arising from the payment by Manila Water of concessionaire loans and foreign currency-denominated borrowings of the MWSS as well as loans of Manila Water for service expansion and improvement of its services. The tariff adjustment has no impact on the projected net income of the company.

SERVICE COVERAGE AREA

Manila Water provides water and wastewater services to the following areas: Mandaluyong, Pasig, San Juan, Marikina, Pateros, Taguig, Makati, southeastern part of Quezon City and San Andres and Sta. Ana in Manila, and several towns of Rizal Province which include San Mateo, Rodriguez, Antipolo, Cainta, Taytay, Angono, Binangonan and Jalajala.

Securing Your Future Today

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gozco

Over 200 massacred by Syrian forces

AMMAN/BEIRUT—More than 200 Syrians, mostly civilians, were massacred in a village in the rebellious Homs region when it was bombarded by helicopter gunships and tanks and then stormed by militiamen who carried out execution-style killings, opposition activists said.

If confirmed, it would be the worst single incident of violence in 16 months of conflict in which rebels are fighting to topple President Bashar al-Assad and diplomacy on how the bloodshed has been stymied by jostling between world powers.

Activists said it took place on Thursday, while the UN Security Council negotiated a new resolution on Syria. Washington and its allies said it showed the need for tough action, but Russia called not accepting their latest draft.

The Zeraldeen Leadership Council of Homs told Reuters the Sunni Muslim village of Tremseh was subjected on Thursday to a barrage of heavy weapons fire before pro-government Alawite militiamen swept in and killed victims one by one. Some civilians were killed while trying to flee.

Opposition reports suggested that rebels from the Free Syrian Army, fighting to overthrow Assad, were stationed in the village.

"More than 220 people fell today in Tremseh. They died from bombardment by tanks and helicopters, artillery shelling and monetary executions," the regional opposition group said in a statement on Thursday evening.

Syrian state television said three security personnel had been killed in fighting in Tremseh and accused "armed terrorist groups" of committing a massacre there.

Rami Jarrah, an opposition activist from Tremseh, said he had left the town before the reported killing spree but was in touch with residents. "It appears that Alawite militiamen from surrounding villages descended on Tremseh after its rebel defenders pulled out, and started killing the people. Whole houses have been destroyed and burned from the shelling.

"Every family in the town seems to have members killed. We have names of men, women and children from countless families," he said, adding many of the bodies were taken to a local mosque.

Ahmed, another local activist, told Reuters: "So far, we have 20 victims recorded with names and 60 bodies at a mosque. There are more bodies in the fields, bodies in the streets and in houses ... People were trying to flee from the time the shelling started and whole families were killed trying to escape."

Footage of the aftermath of the reported massacre had yet to appear on activists' websites and the reports could not be independently confirmed. Syrian authorities severely limit access for independent journalists.

A detailed account by activists before news of the massacre emerged said at 6 a.m. on Thursday a convoy of 23 vehicles carrying army and security forces, three armored vehicles and five trucks mounted with artillery joined Nimr throughout the town of Tremseh and headed toward the village of Tremseh.

"They blockaded the village from all four sides and began shelling randomly firing on houses as a helicopter flew overhead. As the attack happened, electricity and telephone lines were cut. Residents gathered in the streets in a state of fear and panic. They even unable to flee because of the blockade from every side," the activists posted on activist websites said.

After that, fierce clashes erupted between the heroic Free Syrian Army and Assad's army. Assad's gangs attacked the village school and completely destroyed it. Many people were injured." Reuters

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website: www.unitedprintmediagroup.com.ph

Thai court dismisses suit, defuses tensions

BANGKOK—A Thai court on Friday rejected charges that constitutional amendments proposed by the ruling party threatened the revered monarchy, but ruled a referendum was needed for a rewrite of the charter.

The decision should ease political tensions that have spiraled in Thailand over the last few days.

The government's "red shirt" supporters, who had been massing near parliament and had threatened protests if the ruling went against them, were jubilant with the verdict, waving flags and cheering.

The ruling left the way open for parts of the constitution to be changed but said that if the government wanted to get an elected assembly to overhaul the whole constitution, as it wants to do, a referendum was needed.

The ruling was being watched closely because it could have sparked another violent chapter in Thailand's severe and political divide between the pro-royal establishment in Bangkok and the rural-based red shirts.

Powerful royalists oppose any change to a constitution enacted under a military-backed government in 2007.

The verdict of the court would appear to remove that threat, giving the government time to work out how to proceed without giving either its supporters or opponents cause to protest.

"This is a ruling that keeps the balance between the opposition and the ruling party," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, associate professor in the political science faculty at Chulalongkorn University.

"I believe that the referendum will allow the whole charter to be amended because of the overwhelming support for this government," she said, adding, however, that the opposition Democrat should also be pleased because the process could not now be pushed through quickly.

If the court had found against the government, it might also have had reason to disorder the ruling party for trying to push through illegal changes, potentially bringing down the government of Yingluck the viewers.

The government maintains its proposed changes are part of efforts to bring reconciliation to Thailand, altering a constitution seen by some as undemocratic.

Its opponents had argued the changes would threaten the constitutional monarchy and that one unelected aim was to pave the way for former premier Thaksin Shinawatra to return home self-exile without serving time in jail for a graft conviction.

Thaksin is Yingluck's brother and is believed to be the real power behind her government, giving it orders from his villa in Dubai.

A former telecoms billionaire, he is adored by the poor but reviled by the royalist establishment and military, which toppled him in a coup in 2006. Reuters

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IN THIS ISSUE
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- Gov't takes LRT show on the road /B3
- 'Asean 5' to grow while Asia staggers /B6
- Peso expected to strengthen further in H2 /B6

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

Bangko Sentral lowers SDA rates

Cost of keeping P1.6T in banks' idle cash

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has cut interest rates on funds placed in its special deposit account (SDA) facility, a move seen to push banks to withdraw portions of their more than P1 trillion in idle cash so these could be used for lending.

The reduction in the SDA rate was 3.125 basis points across all maturities, the BSP announced yesterday.

The one-week SDA rate was cut to 4.05125 percent from 4.0625 percent; the two-week rate to 4.05975 percent from 4.125 percent; and the one-month rate to 4.10625 percent from 4.1875 percent.

"The adjustment in the SDA rates is in line with the pricing of the product," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said, adding that the rate reduction was in keeping with the decline in interest rates globally.

As of end-June, documents from the central bank showed that banks placed in the SDA facility stood at P1.6 trillion.

The cut in the rates followed criticism against the huge amounts of funds parked in the SDA facility. Economists said some of the money must be used by banks to increase their lending. Banks could contribute to boosting economic growth if they would use them to free cash to finance corporate expansion or new businesses.

Banks, however, have remained attracted to placing excess money in the SDA facility given its ability to help them generate significant income with virtually no risk.

The country's banking sector actually has been lending more to consumers and enterprises, with the outstanding loans of universal and commercial banks growing at a double-digit pace. Still, economists argued that there was scope for banks to further increase lending given the significant cash parked in the SDA and the enormous financing requirements of the economy.

Businesses and even loans might be used to fund infrastructure projects, which the country

BANKING B2

Gov't debt burden reached P5.15T in May

By Raoul M. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT'S debt burden reached P5.23 trillion as of May, increasing by 7.7 percent or P374.11 billion from the level posted in the same month of 2011.

It was also bigger by P72 billion or 1.4 percent from the April level mainly due to a weaker peso and a net issuance of domestic securities.

With the population estimated at 95.2 million, according to the National Statistical Coordination Board, the amount of internal outstanding debt would mean that each citizen has a share of P54,988.

Documents on total outstanding debt from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that 59 percent or P3.09 trillion was borrowed from local lenders.

Domestic debt increased by P19.82 billion or 0.6 percent from the P3.02 trillion posted in April. The increase was attributed mainly to the government having issued more local debt papers compared to the volume that was redeemed.

On the other hand, 41 percent or P2.13 trillion of total outstanding debt was booked in foreign currencies such as dollar, euro and yen. Aside from loans extended by multilateral lenders and official aid from foreign governments, the Philippines also borrows abroad through the issuance of bonds denominated in these currencies.

Foreign borrowings increased by P93 billion or 2.6 percent from the P2.06 trillion noted in external lenders in April. The increases in foreign debt was due mainly to the depreciation of the peso against the dollar, which added P70.84 billion to the debt stock.

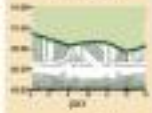
Likewise, P210 million worth of debt incurred in April, but was reported on late to be recorded during that month, bucked up obligations as of May.

The government paid P1 billion more than the amount of fresh foreign obligations in May, which tempered the increase in borrowings from abroad. The depreciation of the yen and the euro against the dollar also helped push down outstanding

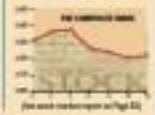
GOV'T B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
July 13, 2012
41.980



STOCK MARKET
July 13, 2012
9.33



Stocks end losing streak

LOCAL stocks crept higher yesterday, ending a five-day slump, as GMA Prime Holdings and Robinsons Land boosted the property counter.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index inched up by 9.33 points or 0.18 percent to finish at 5,214.52. The broadened-out regional markets mixed as reports that China's second-quarter economic growth had not matched expectations.

The property counter surged 1.38 percent, led by SM Prime (+3.89 percent) and PHILEX (+3.76 percent).

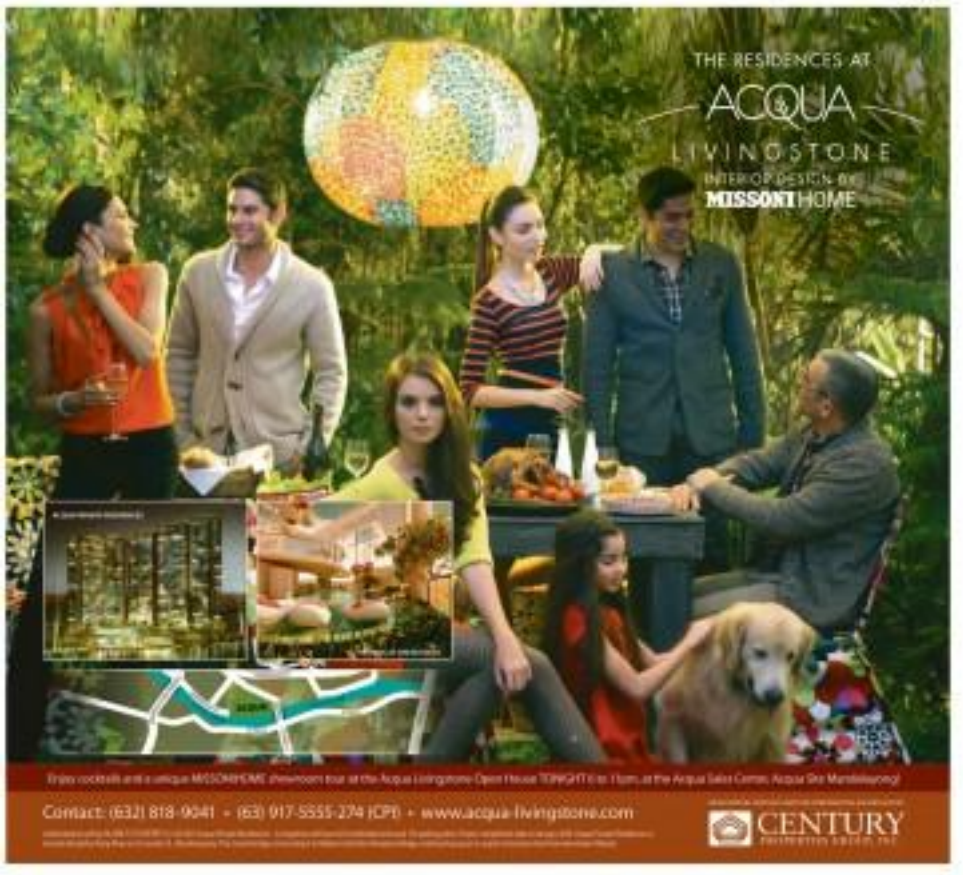
SM Prime rose after its parent Jaime Sy said that the SM group's offer on a prospective buy-in transaction with the Sin-gas family was still on the table. RLC, on the other hand, ended on news that it was in talks to take part in the $2-billion gaming/entertainment hub planned by Japanese casino tycoon Kazuo Okada.

Value turnover reached to P11.34 billion due to a P5.5-billion block sale of Puregold and a P4 billion block sale of Philweb.

Puregold's controlling shareholder Lucio Co placed out shares in a recent overnight equity deal while Philweb bought shares held by ePLDT.

Advancers outnumbered decliners in the market, 87-62, while 48 stocks were unchanged.

STOCKS B2



SMIC listing ₱25-B bonds

Investors get venue to trade securities

By Doris C. Dumlao

ENGINEERING GIANT SM Investments Corp. has obtained approval to list P25 billion worth of retail bonds on fixed income bourse Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. on July 16.

The listing will allow bondholders to freely trade their bonds through accredited brokers between the listing date and the maturity of the bonds.

The bonds to be listed are the P18 billion worth of fixed-rate series-A bonds due in 2014 and series-B bonds due in 2015. SMIC will also list an FRSA the recently issued ₱7.1 billion worth of fixed-rate series-C bonds due in 2019 and series-D bonds due in 2022.

"We are glad to have a venue by which our securities increased flexibility to our bondholders while also getting greater access to retail investors of SM bonds," SMIC executive vice president and chief financial officer Jose Sio said in a statement.

The P25-billion listed bond offer of SM that closed last July 6 was upsized from the initial offering of P15 billion to P25 billion due to the strong demand from both retail and institutional investors.

The proceeds of the bond issue will be used to finance the medium-term projects of SMIC in the hotel and commercial properties business.

SMIC is also continuing the expansion of malls in provincial areas and in China under its mall subsidiary SM Prime Holdings Inc. while the residential business will be launching four or five new projects each year under its residential arm SM Development Corp.

Recently, the group also subscribed to its proportionate share in 40.6% landbank rights offer worth $1 billion to enhance the bank's own capital and prepare for larger infrastructure funding.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region IX, Zamboanga Peninsula
DIVISION OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Department of Education, Division of Zamboanga del Sur, Pagadian City intends to apply the sum of **FOUR (4) MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVEN PESOS AND 70/100 (₱4,225,607.70)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract to **REPRODUCTION/ PRINTING, BINDING AND DELIVERY** of the following books/ modules, titled hereunder:

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- 10 units (20,190 qty) (Araling Panlipunan)
- 10 units (20,230 qty) (Filipino)
- 10 units (20,230 qty) (Health)
- 10 units (20,230 qty) (Arts)
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- (23 units (23,000 copy) - Math)
- 10 units (20,230 qty) (Music)
- 10 units (20,230 qty) (Physical Education)
- 40 units (20,190 qty) (Filipino)

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- 10 units (1,200 qty) (Filipino)
- 10 units (1,200 qty) (Araling Panlipunan)
- 10 units (1,200 qty) (Health)
- 10 units (1,200 qty) (Music)
- 10 units (1,200 qty) (Arts)
- 10 units (1,200 qty) (Physical Education)
- 10 units (1,200 qty) (Math)
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NGCP pins Mindanao power hopes on crucial P24-B project

By Amy R. Borres

THE NATIONAL Grid Corp. of the Philippines expects to complete by the end of this month the feasibility study for the crucial P24-billion Leyte-Mindanao interconnection project which may help boost the power supply in electricity-starved Mindanao.

Results of the two-month, P92-million feasibility study by China Southern Institute will update the technical study conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) for the state-run National Power Corp. in 2008.

Joseph Ferdinand Gutierrez, senior adviser to the NGCP president, said the private transmission operator was keen on pursuing this project and even offered to spearhead the funding requirements for the project, with the approval of the Energy Regulatory Commission, if the feasibility study almost completed. NGCP is looking to proceed with the second phase of the project, which is the actual implementation.

The interconnection project will include the establishment of a 250-kilovolt high-voltage direct current (HVDC) submarine cable bipolar link with a total transfer capacity of 500 megawatts (MW), as well as a 455-kilometer long overhead line and 224-kilometer submarine cable 20-million at the Ormoc Converter station in Leyte and end at the Kidapawan Converter station in Northcentral Mindanao via Southern Leyte and Northeastern Mindanao.

It may take up to seven years to complete the LMIP should regulators allow NGCP to proceed with it, he added.

The LMIP has long been considered a crucial project because it will finally connect all the three main power grids. Currently, only Luzon and Visayas are interconnected, allowing for the export of power between the two grids.

Also, the LMIP will enable the Philippines to become part of the much larger Asean grid via the Sabah-Philippines grid interconnection.

Gov't takes LRT show on the road

PH out to push P60-B rail contract in key cities abroad

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE GOVERNMENT is set to hold roadshows in key cities like London, Madrid, Seoul and Tokyo to drum up interest for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) line 1- Cavite Extension, which, at P60-billion, is the most expensive project in the Aquino administration's pipeline.

According to the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), interest in the seven-year (ongoing) project, though weak on the project is not expected to start until the middle of next year or three years into the President's six-year term.

"This project has been on deck as early as eight years ago, when I was still (with) industry. However, because of the extended process involving government transactions, this project was never pursued," said Transportation Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

The bidding, which started with a prequalification process this week, is expected to be completed by early next year. The issuance of a "notice of award," a requirement before work can start, is not expected until the second quarter.

The prequalification conference is meant to weed out parties that are not committed to the project, or does not have the financial or technical capacity for such an undertaking.

"The bidding will undergo prequalification to ensure that the companies, or even the consortia to be formed, have the required financial, technical and management capability to carry out this project," Roxas said.

Several conglomerates attended the prequalification conference, including Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), San Miguel Mabuhay Development Corp., First Pacific, Marubeni, JMOC, Ayala Corp., Inc., Leighton Contractors, Japanese firms Sumitomo, Mitsubishi, Itochu, and French transportation contractor RATP Dev and Eyrax.

MPIC and conglomerate Ayala Corp. have shortlisted g3base.net as a joint-venture firm to pursue the LRT extension project.

The bidders will vie for the P50-billion construction, operations, and maintenance contract for the extension project, while the government will shoulder the remaining P10-billion, secured from an overseas development assistance (ODA) loan. For the acquisition of new train cars.

"We want the countries in Europe and Asia to know about this project. How many projects worldwide amount to about $800 million?" Roxas said. "The cost of the project is expected to go down as more investors bid for it."

The existing Line 1, with end-points at Roosevelt to the north and Baclaran in the south, services about 500,000 commuters daily.

The Cavite extension project will increase the span of Line 1 from 20.7 kilometers to 32.4 kilometers, and will have a new southern endpoint in Bing, Bacoor, Cavite.

The extension includes eight stations, with provisions for two more stations, a 10.3-kilometer viaduct, support beams, and three new model facilities to serve as halts where buses, jeepneys and taxis can pick up and drop off passengers.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
4/F/T Bldg., Technology Park Complex, C.P. Garcia Ave.,
U.P. Campus, Diliman 1800 Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (632) 426-0160 loc. 1300, 926-7420
Fax: (632) 426-14-21

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI), Department of Science and Technology, invites bona fide suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following item:

Layer 3 Network Router
(Geoportal Project)
Approved Budget of the Contract: PhP 4,000,000.00

Eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals (2 copies each) in three envelopes must be submitted at the ASTI-BAC Secretariat, 4/ST Bldg., C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Diliman, Quezon City. Pre-Bidding Conference will be on July 17, 2012 at/later than 10:30 AM. Opening of Bids is on July 31, 2012 @ 9:00 AM at the Conference Room, Eduard Pinet ASTI Bldg., C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Diliman, Quezon City on the same date in the presence of the participating bidders.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at Tel. No. 426-7423; 426-0160 loc. 1300 and/or mail/e-mail Mr. Danny Marin or Ms. Lisa Llavore.

ASTI-BAC reserves the right to waive any formality in the response to the eligibility requirements and in this invitation. ASTI-BAC further reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and implies no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

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Chairman

Aussie miner posts record yield

By Rue T. Dictombre

AUSTRALIAN CGA Mining Ltd., which heads the Masbate gold project, posted a record yield in the first six months of 2012.

The Masbate project is one of the largest gold producers in the Philippines. CGA holds the Masbate gold project through Philippine company Filminera Resources Corp.

For two consecutive quarters, the company reported a record output of 180,043 ounces of gold.

"Full quarterly results will be released as soon as they are available," the company said in a report which did not include comparative figures.

From January to June, the company processed 3,315,340 tons of ore with an average grade of 1.28 grams of gold per ton. The company succeeded in recovering 85.2 per cent of the precious metal.

Also, CGA Mining said its plant in Masbate continued to operate above expectations with availabilities for the six month, averaging 94.6 percent.

Since it was commissioned, the SAG (semi-autogenous grinding) mill has consistently operated at or above 6.8 million tons per annum.

In May, CGA Mining handed a record monthly production of 20,887 ounces of gold. The previous record was 18,308 ounces posted in December 2010.

The processed volume that month was also reported to be a record high with 642,806 tons ore, containing a grade of 1.13 grams per ton of gold, CGA said.

CGA is listed on the main board of the Toronto Stock Exchange and Australian Securities Exchange.

The Masbate project has a total Measured and indicated resource base of 5.33 million ounces of gold, total inferred resource base of 2.03 million ounces of gold and a proven and probable reserve of 3.097 million ounces of gold.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 907 Muñoz St.,
Manila, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
WELL RESOURCE MINING INC GF Powerfly Star Bldg. 4th Ave. cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Lizhong Luo Chinese	Assistant Project Manager
WELL RESOURCE MINING INC GF Powerfly Star Bldg. 4th Ave. cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Bo Chen Chinese	Assistant Site Supervisor
WELL RESOURCE MINING INC GF Powerfly Star Bldg. 4th Ave. cor. 27th St., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Kuan Li Chinese	Assistant Manager
INDUSTAR TECHNOLOGY INC. 2/F Hiyajo Court II Bldg., 23 El Dhero Road Ave., Makati City	Yong Zhuang Chinese	Database Specialist I
INDUSTAR TECHNOLOGY INC. 2/F Hiyajo Court II Bldg., 23 El Dhero Road Ave., Makati City	Lushua Zhang Chinese	Human Resource Administrator
INDUSTAR TECHNOLOGY INC. 2/F Hiyajo Court II Bldg., 23 El Dhero Road Ave., Makati City	Yongsong Wang Chinese	Telemarketer Database Specialist
INDUSTAR TECHNOLOGY INC. 2/F Hiyajo Court II Bldg., 23 El Dhero Road Ave., Makati City	Bing Zhang Chinese	Project Coordinator
INDUSTAR TECHNOLOGY INC. 2/F Hiyajo Court II Bldg., 23 El Dhero Road Ave., Makati City	Weihong Liu Chinese	Account Manager
PHILIPPINE PLAZA HOLDINGS, INC. (SOFITEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA MANILA) CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd. cor. Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City	Hiroaki Yamaguchi Japanese	Japanese Chef
GO TRANSIT MEDIA GROUP INC. Unit 1604 A Rees Tower PSE Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Antonia Rigor Australian	Marketing Consultant
SAIYEN TECHNOLOGIES, INC. ASF Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., cor. 6th Floor Ave., Makati City	Sunisa Ramsinthaphong Thai	Operations and Quality Supervisor
ONE BUSINESS SOLUTION, INC. 12/F Yuchengco Tower RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Bong Sik Gum Malaysian	Bilingual Speaking Sales Account Executive
CAPITAL POWER GLOBAL LIMITED 48/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Ricky Reno Hau Tjanaraka	Financial Officer
SAIYEN TECHNOLOGIES, INC. ASF Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., cor. 6th Floor Ave., Makati City	Sung Wang Chinese	Chinese Training Officer
LEEDS ENTERPRISES INC. 2/F Burgundy Corp. Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Susana Cristina Elizabeth Indonesian	Multilingual IT Officer
MICROSOURCING PHILIPPINES INC. 6/F 10N Ave. Bldg., Orchard Road Boulevard City, Liloc, Guimbal City	Jasbir Singh Thai	Project Manager
PINSERVER RESOURCES CORP Unit 1006 "Trade and Financial Tower, 32nd St. cor. 7th Ave., Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Sasa Ilic Russian	Project Consultant
FIRST SOURCE SOLUTIONS LIMITED 6/F Firstsource Bldg., Plaza 20, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Pravin Nemichand Kotte Indian	Senior Manager - Operations
FIRST SOURCE SOLUTIONS LIMITED 6/F Firstsource Bldg., Plaza 20, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Rohit Raghavan Sahay Indian	Senior Manager - Operations

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
BAYSIDER TECHNOLOGIES INC. ASF Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., cor. 32/Floor Ave., Makati City	My Ni Ha Ta Vietnamese	Marketing Executive (Multilingual)
FIRST SOURCE SOLUTIONS LIMITED 6/F Firstsource Bldg., Plaza 20 Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jon Balthar Chabria Indian	Team Leader
BAYSIDER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. ASF Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., cor. 32/Floor Ave., Makati City	Vinh Thanh Bui Vietnamese	Customer Support (Multilingual)
YEUNG MARINE PRODUCTS, INC. 4/4/5 D. Campos St., Don Galo, Parañaque City	Zhijuan Ke Chinese	Fishery Technician
REVOLUSEN CORP. 21 Calumpit St. Project 7, Quezon City	Changgoung Kim Korean	General Manager
BAYSIDER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. ASF Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., cor. 32/Floor Ave., Makati City	Shuai Fang Chinese	Sales Executive
YEUNG MARINE PRODUCTS, INC. 4/4/5 D. Campos St., Don Galo, Parañaque City	Xiaoyong Shi Chinese	Fishery Technician
BAYSIDER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. ASF Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., cor. 32/Floor Ave., Makati City	He Zhan Chinese	Customer Support (Multilingual)
CYBER ENGLISH CLASS TUTORIAL SERVICES 2nd Floor Jollibee Plaza Condominium, F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, San Antonio, Pasig City	Sanghun Kim Korean	Marketing Manager
BETTING TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 16/F Zuellig Bldg., Makati Ave., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City	Jona Palsa Lundberg Swedish	Chief Architect
YEUNG MARINE PRODUCTS, INC. 4/4/5 D. Campos St., Don Galo, Parañaque City	Sunghwa Tan Chinese	Fishery Technician
HANWHA E&C CORPORATION 2/F Lucky Star Bldg., No. 42 Central Ave., Quiet, Quezon City	Kwon Ho Ko Korean	Project Director
UNIVERSAL BUSINESS TRAVEL CONSULTANCY (PHILIPPINES) INC. G+4 2/F Lapaz Bldg., Aldy Quirit Drive cor. De Leon St., Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City	Gagandeep Singh Indian	Marketing Manager – India
YEUNG MARINE PRODUCTS, INC. 4/4/5 D. Campos St., Don Galo, Parañaque City	Yu Ming Hsu Chinese	Fishery Technician
TARRACO GROUP, INC. 6/F Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati City	Ivan Segura Rodriguez Vicente Spanish	Bartender
ENEOCO INC. Penthouse W Office Bldg., 26th St. cor. 11th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Victor Jose Valor Torres Spanish	Director of Sales
TARRACO GROUP, INC. 6/F Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati City	Juan Ignacio Rodriguez Vicente Spanish	Chef
HANWHA E&C CORPORATION 2/F Lucky Star Bldg., No. 42 Central Ave., Quiet, Quezon City	Dohwa Song Korean	Drivers Supervisor
TARRACO GROUP, INC. 6/F Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati City	Jorge Pastora Martinez Spanish	Corporate Chef
HANA TOUR MANILA INC. 2/F DAMON Bldg., Financial Center Area, E. Mendiguel Ave., Pasay City	Seungseok Jeon Korean	Sales & Marketing Manager
HANWHA E&C CORPORATION 2/F Lucky Star Bldg., No. 42 Central Ave., Quiet, Quezon City	Jeong Deok Ko Korean	Project Coordinator

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
FLUOR DANIEL, INC. - PHILIPPINES 2/F Ayala Star Bldg., 2420-2434 6780th Drive Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Mark Tuplin British	Project Information Manager
FLUOR DANIEL, INC. - PHILIPPINES 2/F Ayala Star Bldg., 2420-2434 6780th Drive Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Leslie Lawrence Canadian	Maintenance Asset Manager
QINHU HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORPORATION 6th St., 8th Ave., Bldg. 122, District 1, Caloocan City	Jianchun Chen Chinese	Service Technical Manager
DELOITTE & TOUCHE CONSULTING GROUP(PCE PTE LTD) 6/F Yuchio Bldg., Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Akira Tonaoki Indonesian	Senior Consultant
TAISEI PHIL. CONSTRUCTION INC. 22/F Equitable Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Masaki Tomokawa Japanese	Project Manager
ABOCOS PHILIPPINES INC. NAP Net Cube Center, 3rd Ave. cor. 30th St., E-Square Crescent Park, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Dinesh Mahajan Indian	Group Leader
SKYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 42/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., cor. 32 Floor Ave., Makati City	Sirawisa Sanitdara Thai	Customer Support (Multilingual)
ABOCOS PHILIPPINES INC. NAP Net Cube Center, 3rd Ave. cor. 30th St., E-Square Crescent Park, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Suneet Dahgal Indian	Manager
ABOCOS PHILIPPINES INC. NAP Net Cube Center, 3rd Ave. cor. 30th St., E-Square Crescent Park, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Gaurav Mahajan Indian	Manager
ABOCOS PHILIPPINES INC. NAP Net Cube Center, 3rd Ave. cor. 30th St., E-Square Crescent Park, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Sudhakar Rao Pochiraju Indian	Manager
SOJITZ PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 34/F Pacific Star Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Hiroyasu Makasaki Japanese	Director and Senior Manager
ABOCOS PHILIPPINES INC. NAP Net Cube Center, 3rd Ave. cor. 30th St., E-Square Crescent Park, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Tanner Kerr British	Director
ABOCOS PHILIPPINES INC. NAP Net Cube Center, 3rd Ave. cor. 30th St., E-Square Crescent Park, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Gopinath Rao Tadigotri American	Director

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ERRATUM

In the ad material of Notice of filing of Application for Alien Employment Permits published on the July 10, 2012, the position of **Chanjoon Bi** of **BLUE COAST GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY, INC.** should have been **Technical Support Engineer/Customer Support Service** and not as published while the address of Tomoyo Hotel of **JEWS LAND, INC.** should have been read as **No. 836 Muñoz cor. Mahakhar St., Brgy. 699, Zone 076, Malate, Manila** and not as published.

ATTY. ALAN S. MACALINO, CESO III
Regional Director

PR-July 14 (NCR)

boi BOARD OF INVESTMENTS dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PROPERSITY COMPANY OF RESIDENCE, INC.** with office address at No. 03 Tesla St., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as an Expanding Developer of Low Cost Mass Housing Project (Commerce Estate Phase 1B) with a capacity of 498 low-cost mass housing units on a non-pioneer status with project site located in Barrio Tombac, Binan, Laguna.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL M. CAGAOAN
Director
Infrastructure and Services Industries Department

PR- July 14 2012

boi BOARD OF INVESTMENTS dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PROPERSITY COMPANY OF RESIDENCE, INC.** with office address at No. 03 Tesla St., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as an Expanding Developer of Low Cost Mass Housing Project as a non-pioneer status as follows:

Name of Housing Projects	Capacity (No. of housing units)	Location
Pasig Regency Residences (Phase 2)	168	Brgy. Ugong, Pasig, Metro Manila
Pasig Regency Residences (Phase 3)	168	
Bluebottle Villas (Phase 2)	666	Brgy. Kalawaig, Pasig, Metro Manila

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned projects may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL M. CAGAOAN
Director
Infrastructure and Services Industries Department

PR- July 14, 2012

boi BOARD OF INVESTMENTS dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PROPERSITY COMPANY OF RESIDENCE, INC.** with office address at No. 03 Tesla St., Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as an Expanding Developer of Low Cost Mass Housing Projects as a non-pioneer status as follows:

Name of Housing Projects	Capacity (No. of housing units)	Location
Commerce Phase 6	231	Brgy. Mamplasan, Binan, Laguna
Commerce Phase 7	191	
Commerce Phase 8	193	
Commerce Phase 9	651	
Commerce Phase 10	670	
Commerce Phase 11	657	
Commerce Phase 12	650	
Commerce Phase 13	695	

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned projects may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL M. CAGAOAN
Director
Infrastructure and Services Industries Department

(PR– July 14, 2012)

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hire now
www.jobmarketonline.com

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

The following properties were acquired through a judgment based on a compromise agreement approved by the Regional Trial Court of Muntinlupa City. The Order has attained finality and the judgment creditor wishes to liquidate and sell the properties to interested buyers. The prices indicated are subject to change without notice. Interested parties may contact Ms. Nenita Catalang of the TAHADA, VIVO & TAN law office at (632) 631-1028 to 29 or ntc@pldalaw.com.ph.

BATANGAS

1. Lian, Batangas – 7 contiguous titled lots measuring a total of 22.24 hectares with over 300 mango trees; P38,871,662
2. Calatagan, Batangas – 2 contiguous titled lots measuring a total of 3.14 hectares with over 100 mango trees; P5,349,313

CAVITE

1. South Ridge Estates, Tagaytay City – 2 adjacent titled vacant lots measuring 280 sq.m. each; P1,792,000 for each lot
2. Metrogate Tagaytay Estates, Tagaytay City – 2 adjacent titled vacant lots measuring 360 and 252 sq.m.; P1,810,000 and P1,318,700 respectively
3. Metrogate 2, Dasmariñas, Cavite – 5 adjacent titled vacant lots measuring 120 sq.m. each; P497,000 each
4. Royal Tagaytay Estates, Alfonso, Cavite – 1 titled vacant lot measuring 300 sq.m.; P1,446,000
5. Silang, Cavite – 438 sq.m. lot w/ 3-story 18 dr. apartment along J. Rizal Street (near the corner of Kap. Pepe Street); P8,816,000
6. Silang, Cavite – 241 sq.m. lot w/ 3-story 8 dr. apartment along Kap. Pepe Street (near the corner of J.Rizal St.); P2,560,000.00
7. Silang, Cavite – 1191 sq.m lot along Aguinaldo Highway, next to the Sacred Heart Villa School; Php4,536,250.

DEL MONTE FRESH PRODUCE (PHILS.), INC.

is in need of...

DIRECTOR, SHIPPING

(Davao-based)

Vessel Operations, Port & Logistics

- Graduate of BS Marine Transportation or Marine Engineering
- Preferably an experienced Chief Officer or Master Mariner
- With excellent communications and negotiation skills
- With excellent acquired technical skills on shipping fresh fruits & products and reefer ships operations including voyage calculations, vessel passage planning, stripping activities, ports rotation, vessel stowage, cargo segregation & port agencies control
- Can drive and with a valid driver's license
- Above average Computer literacy particularly MS Office applications
- Will be mainly responsible in directing and managing all shipping schedules and in monitoring daily operations of vessels at sea and at port, including vessels' position, temperature, cargo condition, fuel consumption, maintenance and cleanliness, among others
- Also monitors port activities including the implementation of operational guidelines, the efficiency of the vessels/stevedoring on cargo and container operations
- Willing to be assigned in Davao City

Please forward your credentials to:

Human Resources
Del Monte Fresh Produce (Phils.) Inc.
Powerhouse Bldg. Km. 5, Bo. Pampanga, Davao City 8000
Tel No. (082) 233-3637

or e-mail to: DCastro2@freshdelmonte.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC/Sec), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the following contract:

Development of Mansion Facilities, Restoration Works and Landscaping at the Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Ancestral Shrine, Kawit, Cavite

ABC = P 12,423,564.00
Duration = 240 days
Source = P 12,000.00

Prospective bidders should have an experience in construction works. (Based on R.A. 9184 Sec. 23.4.1.2, 23.4.1.3, 23.4.1.4 and should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have the personnel and equipment listed in the Eligibility Check). Bidders may associate or joint venture with another duly licensed and accredited contractor in the Philippines (Consortium) as long as such as the Philippine Association of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bidsecure and scheduling, bid security, performance warranty, this Bidding Documents, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Date of Publication (Philippine Website, Newspaper) and Posting	July 13 – August 3, 2012
Issuance of Bid	
Submission of Bid Eligibility Documents	July 23 – August 6, 2012
Evaluation and Bid Proper	(with Lunch Break)
Pre-Bid Conference	August 1, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.
Opening of Bids	August 10, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.
Evaluation / Post-Qualification / Determination of Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid	August 13 – 15, 2012
Approval of Resolution for Award and Notice of Award	August 16 – 17
Contract Preparation	August 20 – 24, 2012
Notice to Proceed	August 27, 2012

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P10 fee as mentioned above, to the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, 16 Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila Central.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines reserves its responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ENRIQUETA E. SUPETRAN**
BAC Chairman

(PNA – July 14, 2012)

WANTED

SECURITY GUARDS

For Posting within NCR

a. Male/4-7 inches, 23 to 40 years old
b. At least 21st Grade A-21st (Graduate)
c. College Level (at least 72 units)
d. Physically Fit with standing personality
e. Willing to undergo Training & Seminars required by AGAD

Apply at:
SECURITY & SAFETY CORP OF THE PHILS
Alfonso Marmasan Family Building
7817 Ayala Ave., Extn., Salcedo Village, Mkt.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the certificate of stock of the undersigned, which was issued by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, has been lost or destroyed and that the undersigned intends to apply for the issuance of a duplicate certificate therefor.

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1486000	100
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1486200	1,000

Any person with valid objections or the aforementioned shares may file his/her objection in writing under oath with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **ANGELITA M. CASUELA**
Director
Investment Services Industries Department

(PNA – July 14, 2012)

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boi BOARD OF INVESTMENTS **dti**

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PROPERTY COMPANY OF PANAY, INC.**, with office address at [illegible], has filed with the Board of Investments (BOI) as an Expanding Developer of Low Cost Mass Housing Projects on a non-pioneer status on 4/5/2012.

Name of Housing Projects	Capacity (No. of Housing units)	Location
Kennington Phase 1 – Annex	91	Brgy. Guzman, General Trias, Cavite
Kennington Phase 7	473	
Kennington Phase 11	640	
Kennington Phase 13	330	
Kennington Phase 14	231	
Kennington Phase 15	1,120	
Kennington Phase 17	1,280	
Kennington Phase 18	1,231	

Any person with valid objections or the aforementioned projects may file his/her objection in writing, under oath with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **ANGELITA M. CASUELA**
Director
Investment Services Industries Department

(PNA – July 14, 2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

BUSINESS ADS

LOST & FOUND

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MEMORIAL LOT

CONDO/TWNHSE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

LOAN & MORTGAGE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

WANTED TO BUY

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PETS

2010 BMW 730D BLACK ST KNS HARDY USED 09152203819

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the owner of the car plate no. PGW 113 Toyota Vios 1.3 J sedan with color Gray, engine no. 1NZ-1102111, chassis no. NCP93-5001111, purchased on installment basis from Toyota Alabang, Inc. Sales as per Sales Invoice No. 0012 dated May 19, 2010 for the total amount of P 718,000.00 and with remaining balance of P 0.00 as per Statement of Account dated June 30, 2012 issued by Toyota Alabang, Inc. Sales, has been lost and the undersigned intends to apply for the issuance of a new certificate of registration.

(PNA – July 07, 14 & 21, 2012)

ISELCO-1

NUEVA ECIJA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. Pantoc, Nueva Ecija

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO SUBMIT BID PROPOSAL

WHAT	:	Supply and Delivery of Electrical Materials
WHEN	:	Issuance of Eligibility Requirements & Bidding Documents: July 17-26, 2012
		Pre-Bid Conference: July 23, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.
		Submission / Opening of Bids: July 27, 2012 @ 1:30 p.m.

WHERE : Boardroom, ISELCO-1 Main Office Compound Pantoc, Nueva Ecija

Cost of Bid Documents - P 1,000.00

For inquiries, please call Ms. Luzviminda G. Torres (BAC Chairman), Engr. Ronan L. Flores (GSE, TSD) and **Ms. Maria Lucia G. Garcia** (BAC Secretary). They may be reached through cellphone/telephone numbers 0918.842.9720, 0917.818.4107 and 0918.893.7124, respectively.

(Sgd.) **MS. LUZVIMINDA G. TORRES**
Chairman, BAC

(PNA – July 14, 2012)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DEALERSHIP

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

CPA - with (2) years experience

Apply at 1503-B West Tower, Tektite Bldg. Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 709-0993 Fax: 706-6994

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

UNIVERSITY HOTEL
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The University Hotel, through its Bids, Awards and Disposal Committee (BADC) invites prospective bidders to submit sealed bids/proposals for the supply and delivery of:

1. Grocery items
2. Perishable items (vegetables, meat, fish and poultry)

Deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, 27 July 2012, 9:00 am at the Supply & Property Management Office, University Hotel.

For inquiries regarding the complete list of grocery and perishable items, please contact Ms. Rosalie P. Ayag at telephone numbers 436-1318, 436-1317 loc. 242.

(Sgd.) **NESTOR C. MADRIGAL**
BADC Chair

(Sgd.) **MARTIN V. GREGORIO**
President Manager

(PNA – July 14, 2012)

BUSINESS

'Asean 5' to grow while Asia staggers

Domestic demand to keep economies robust, says ADB

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE ASIAN Development Bank has cut its growth forecasts for most Asian sub-regions but kept that for the so-called "Asean 5," saying the Philippines and its neighbors will drive global growth as the prolonged debt crisis in the euro zone drags the world economy.

In its latest growth outlook report, ADB said it is keeping its 5.6 percent average growth projection for this year for the multilateral lending agency's "Asean 5" definition, which includes the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

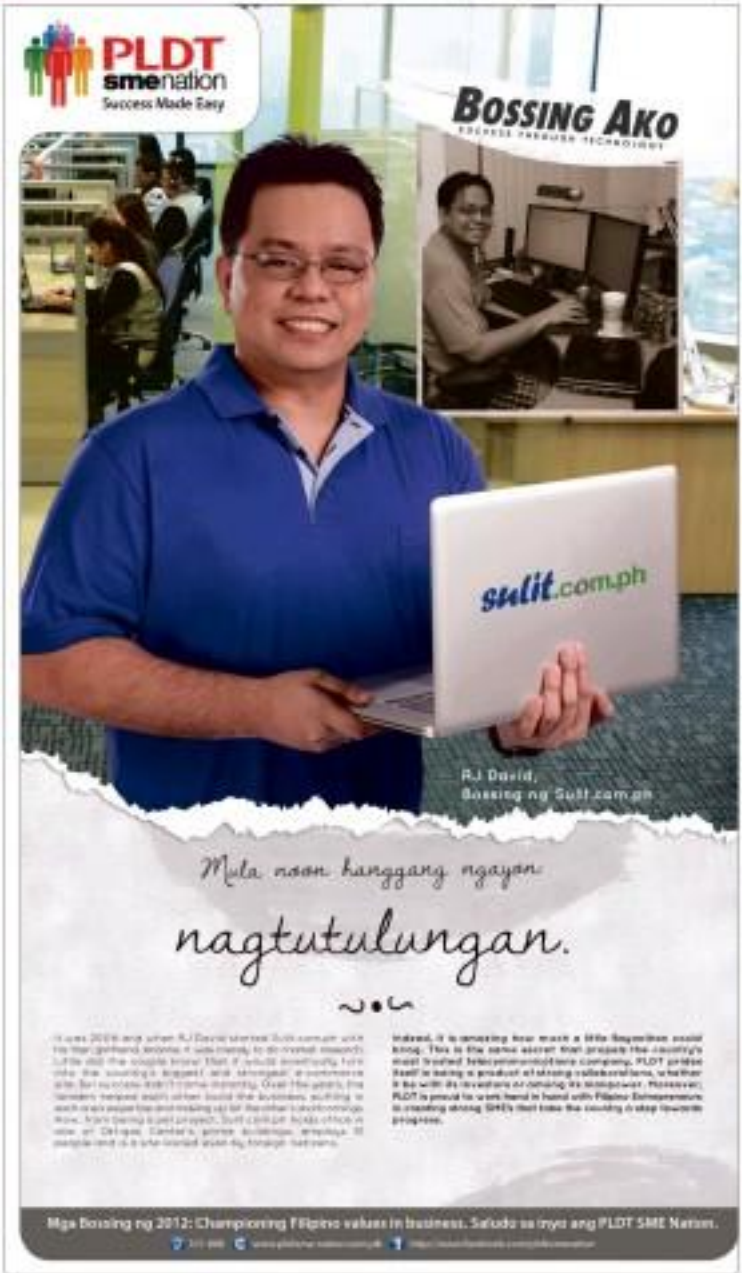
It also maintained its growth forecast for the entire Southeast Asia, which also includes Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Singapore.

This is despite the drag created by unfavorable external developments, led by the debt woes in the euro zone that has tempered rise in global demand.

"Despite the weaker external environment, growth in Southeast Asia is expected to remain robust, supported by strong domestic demand," ADB said in the report titled, "Singapore Global Economy Weighs on Asia's Growth."

ADB said investments by local firms are rising and household consumption remains robust in the Philippines and the rest of the Asean 5. Domestic demand is thus offsetting the adverse effects of global economic woes on the performance of the five countries.

The Philippines and the rest of Asean 5 will serve as growth drivers for Asia and the rest of the world for this year, the developmental institution said.



Peso expected to strengthen further in H2

By Reena V. Domingo

THE PESO is expected to strengthen for the rest of the year, economists outgoing from a week trajectory last month, according to First Metro Investment Corp. and the University of Asia and the Pacific.

In a joint research note, FMIC and UAP forecast the local currency to trade stronger month-after month over the rest quarter.

They said the peso is expected to average 41.9 against the greenback in July, 41.72 in August, and 41.52 in September.

FMIC and UAP attribute this strong stance to favorable conditions in the financial markets and stable gains in remittances from overseas based Filipinos.

"However, as the year ends, and details of how Spain and Italy will be allowed to grow becomes clearer, while the United States recovers from the second-quarter slowdown with election spending, the dollar may regain attractiveness in the fourth quarter and so temper the peso's appreciation bias," they added.

They also said that data on the peso's 200-day moving average indicates a stable rate, while its 30-day moving points to further appreciation bias.

"[This time] may become a reality when because of favorable developments in the euro zone or more portfolio capital inflows in expectation of a credit upgrade," FMIC and UAP said.

Last month, FMIC and UAP both opined that the peso would weaken from around P40.81 on average in P40.931 in July and P41.34 in August.

Open access scheme faces more delays

By Amy R. Ramos

THE IMPLEMENTATION of open access and retail competition slated in September this year will likely be delayed further, as certain policies and issues have yet to be ironed out to ensure the smooth transition to this scheme.

"We're getting to that very tight timetable. I don't think it's going to happen this September—it's more likely I'm happen on December so the window [for preparations] is getting smaller," said Alberto E. Pandilla, senior vice president and head of customer retail services at Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

Pandilla pointed out that, for one, the Department of Energy and the Energy Regulatory Commission have yet to harmonize their respective policies and rules on the rules governing open access.

The rules, he added, may also need a little fine-tuning to ensure that all processes and systems will result in the seamless operation of this scheme.

The Meralco official also noted that they have also yet to ensure that their own systems would be able to interface with that of the Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), which will serve as the central registration body for the open access regime.

"Obviously, we have to interface with those systems but we haven't started. Energy Undersecretary Jonathan Aris earlier assured us that she will initiate a meeting between [Meralco] and PEMC to make sure our systems will communicate well," he explained.

In a text message to the bureau, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras confirmed that the implementation of the open access scheme will indeed be delayed.

According to Almendras, the implementation "may delay a few months" but the DOE is still targeting to have open access in place "within the year."

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangaoang

No real estate bubble but experts wary

By Yuen R. Salazar

WILL A CRASH follow the surge? Are we in a bubble that's about to burst? A real estate bubble occurs when values begin to increase and reach a point where they outstrip the collective incomes of potential buyers. This causes drastic stalls in lending and sends values spiraling downward.

Enrique Soriano, former program director for real estate and senior adviser for Wong + Bernardo Business Advisory, recently tackled the phenomenon in a lecture, explaining further that the present property situation does not show that the Philippines isn't in a bubble yet as the local has exhibited strong fundamentals. He said, however, that the economy shouldn't let its guard down.

He revealed to Inquirer Property of the indicators (such as price points, low borrowing rates, concentration on the National Capital Region, inexperienced players) that lead to a

MORE, B2.2

Editor Cesar G. Pangayong

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Meatless Monday campaign gains political ground

By Tessa H. Salazar

PROPONENTS OF the Meatless Monday (Tuntong Gutom) campaign announced that it was able to get Congress on the "Meatless Monday Bill" on the committee on environment's Rep. Teddy Casiño in time for the Nutrition Month of July.

This development was disclosed by neuroscientist Custer C. Deocaris, PhD, a fields scientist and founding chair of Meatless Monday Philippines.

Deocaris said in a statement that Casiño would be scheduled to deliver a privilege speech about Meatless Monday on July 27. The bill will be deliberated on in the Lower House in August.

Running out of time

Deocaris said, "The bill has to be approved by the Senate, the Lower House and the President before June. We are running out of time because of the scheduled national elections coming and all the legislators will be busy with their own campaigns. To my knowledge, that will be the first piece of legislation in the world to change an entire government's dietary habits."

Three months ago, Deocaris computed that if the 1.5 million Filipinos who curtailed off their lights in the 2009 Earth Hour were without meat for just a day, it would be equivalent to 180,412 trees planted and grown for 10 years. That would also have prevented carbon dioxide emissions from 2,680,464 liters of gasoline, or 177,941.37 LPG tanks, kept 1,150 passengers vehicles off the streets for a year, and produced 214.79 carbon footprint reduction credits in a day in the Asubasi-ban dam. Overall, this would have reduced Filipinos' carbon dioxide production by 5,066,666,516 kg.

Not hostile to human existence

Deocaris said every Filipino going meatless for the first meatless would reap the benefits of a future Earth that is not hostile to human existence. A separate computation showed one meatless lunch by 97 million Filipinos would have been equivalent to 12,722,891 kg of CO_2 saved.10 all periods of the average Filipino diet with meat is replaced by soya dietary this meatless lunch. This would also be equivalent to the amount of CO_2 saved when 2,496 cars are taken off the road for one year. It would be equivalent to the CO_2 sequestered by 326,227 trees, or the CO_2 generated from being released from 305,935 LPG tanks. It also would have saved 2,261,755 animals from slaughter.

Livestock farming (cattle, pork, poultry etc.) accounts for the use and pollution of 70 percent of the global freshwater and 30 percent of land-use conversion. In fact, 70 percent of the Amazon Rain Forest has already been cleared for grazing and feed crop production. It takes about 12,000 liters of water to produce 1 kilogram of beef, compared with just 800 liters to produce the same weight of wheat.

The report, Livestock's Long Shadow by Goodland and Anhang, coauthors of "Livestock and Climate Change" in the June issue of World Watch magazine, found that livestock and their byproducts actually account for at least 32.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) per year, or 51 percent of annual worldwide GHG emissions.

Inclusion Science and Health recently formed some schools—Taytay Rizal University and Baptist School in Bulacan—which signed memorandums of agreement in Meatless Monday. Sophia School in Mayamaqan City decided to offer only vegetables, registered (vegetable fiber made to taste like meat) and fruits in its school canteen every Monday. What was originally planned as just a once-a-week experiment eventually spread out to other schools/days, as well.

VEGETARIAN FOOD. Fruits, vegetables and grains provide the best nourishment for the least harm of the brain. Antibiotic seed and large molecules in meat weaken it.

'Is stem cell therapy worth the gamble?'

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo

THIS WAS the question Dr. Antonio F. Abaracar, professorial emeritus of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology, raised in his commentary about the dramatic claims of stem cell therapy, which will be published in the August issue of IBM, (Health & Lifestyle) magazine. In his article, he clearly bridged the gap between the highly technical aspect of this promising, yet still controversial form of therapy, and the public's appreciation of its up side and down side.

Stem cells are actually amazing precursor cells present in the newborn or any species, and they have the extra essential to develop into many different cell types in the body during early life and growth. Scientists describe them as "a sort of internal repair system," as they divide and renew itself almost indefinitely. Under special conditions, it can help to replenish other cells provided the person or animal is still alive. Each new stem cell produced by the division of the original stem cells has the potential either to remain a stem cell or become another type of cell with a more specialized function, such as a heart or nerve cell.

From the medical standpoint, the potential is that stem cell therapy can literally replace old malfunctioning cells and make them like those of a young healthy person. They can be used to replace cells that are lost or damaged from disease, old age or injury. Indeed, stem cell therapy is very promising, which unfortunately is being exploited by some unscrupulous clinics offering it as if they're already med-mid-sized, charging exorbitant money running in the millions of pesos for a course of stem cell treatment.

The following are excerpts from Dr. Abaracar' commentary:

"Patient consistent from various sources have provided an alternative to perceived quality of life improvement to be primarily attributed to stem cell therapy, what is the true score? Being treated with possible breakthrough medical modality is definitely not a ticket to get from various benefits at present, certain questions should be asked by the public before considering or accepting stem cell therapy.

• Is the institution needed to treat with 'benefit' compared to the number needed to harm already established?

• Are the volumes of cells harvested from the patient or other donors classified to be 'healthier cells' that can positively control or improve the impaired function of the diseased organ or tissue of the patient?

• Is the technique to harvest the stem cells already standardized and scrutinized the best approach?

• Is the best media for culturing the cell colonies already known and determined to be the 'gold standard'?

• Is the harvested cells determined to have a benign life span in the laboratory's 'turn and for eight environments'?

• Would the harvested cells live longer than before if you genetically to replicate or differentiate much faster in the laboratory?

• What are the odds that the laboratory cultured cells will perform as well or better when reintroduced or transplanted back to the patient?

• What are the chances of 'rejection' by the body since the new cultured cells are being returned to a known 'hostile' at diseased environment?

• What is the 'time and investment availability' in determining the success or failure of the procedure?

• How 'long is long' before supposing any or all of the above steps?

"The implanted colony of cells micro-environment can stimulate negatively or positively the stem cell function resulting in uncertain or unable outcomes to those who receive them. (Dimmeler, Stroke Cire Ther Vasc Biol. 2010;30:1089). Furthermore, the areas of the transplanted cells can remain hostile due to radical oxygen species or oxidative stress which may cause another disease or medical complications. (Ishii, J Cell Biochem 2011;111:5627).

"Present reviews of clinical trials of stem cell therapy for heart attacks and ischemic heart disease remain late reported that less than half of the trials found only modest improvement in cardiac function." (Hyunsoo Pina, Mesenchel Health and Risk Management 2012;4:991) Even in heart failure studies, increase rejection of the transplanted stem cells is a major barrier to long-term success. (Wiley 2011;141:e53300) More importantly, stem cells dosages and administration methods have to be standardized for clinical application stability and efficacy. (Oral, Circ J 2012; 76: 1307)

In answer to Dr. Abaracar' question, we can quote British professor, Sir Martin Evans, one of the pioneers of embryonic stem cell and gene targeting, research which earned him a Nobel Prize for medicine. He said: "The scenario of a cell-based therapy or medical intervention using cells is very iconic but there's still a long way to go before it's a safe therapy. There's also quite a lot of jumping the gun and early adoption going on, some of which is quite cynical."

So before you sign in the next cell treatment for whatever health issues, just make sure you don't fall victim to those who're "jumping the gun" and making you foot the consequences. Much more so if you're only having it for cosmetic or "feeling young" indications.

Economic benefits of pneumo shot in children

By Charles E. Bohan

PHILSTAR.COM It the most common cause of childhood mortality in countries where the cure of child death is highest, the disease, characterized primarily by the inflammation or buildup of fluid to fill the microscopic sacs or the lungs that absorb oxygen (alveoli), has been described by the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization as the major "forgotten killer of children."

That is because little attention is paid to pneumonia despite the fact that the disease kills over 2 million children—more death than AIDS, malaria and measles combined.

"Immunizing children against pneumonia will provide the greatest benefit to public health. Vaccines are cost-effective, offer lifelong protection and are family neutral to development. And yet, despite all these, immunization coverage in the least developed and have significant obstacles in health delivering and developed countries," informed Dr. Edith Mary, a senior research fellow and former associate professor at Hitotsubashi School of Management in The Netherlands.

Asset

Based on a number of studies done in middle-income countries alone, Mary informed that the use of pneumococcal vaccines will avert more 11 million cases of pneumococcal disease and over 500,000 premature deaths in the next 10 years.

"We should pay more attention to this disease. The benefits of vaccine programs—in particular, their non-health effects—are the proved health—have been underestimated, thereby causing the rate of return to be underestimated," she said.

Mary added that by reducing illness and long-term disabling vaccines also generate savings for health systems and families.

"Parents spend less time looking after their sick children. By helping children stay healthy and away from pneumonia, vaccines ensure a major barrier to human development. They have developmental benefits. Parents spend more time and savings for other family," disenfranchised.

Double dividend

Mary believes that investing in health pays "double dividend" especially in low- and middle-income countries.

"It is widely recognized in the global health community that vaccination is one of the world's most important and cost-effective public health measures, with positive socioeconomic effects in society. Thus, health is not only a direct source of human satisfaction but also an instrument for raising income levels," she said.

To prove her point she referred to the so-called disability-adjusted life years, or DALYs as an effective way to determine the cost effectiveness of getting immunized against a major killer disease.

"To measure the lost value of a healthy life year (one of illness and disability public health refers to DALY), which is the sum of years of life lost due to premature death (mortality) and loss of full health due to illness and disability (morbidity)," she explained.

Cost-effective

The Commission on Macroeconomics and Health of the WHO has classified interventions that gain a year of healthy life (i.e., a DALY averted) as a cost that is less than the gross domestic product per capita as very cost-effective. Those averting each DALY at a cost between one and three times the GDP per capita are cost-effective.

"Moreover, I would like to stress that based on so many previous studies, one of the important investments that a government could undertake is making sure the children are immunized against all major vaccine-preventable diseases including pneumonia. Yes, the government will have to invest today but consider the huge healthcare costs that the administration could avert now and in the future," she explained.

She added that the development of new generation pneumococcal vaccines have been proven to be cost-effective in middle- and low-income countries, assuming that those that protect against the largest number of serotypes is highly cost-effective.

One example is the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, PCV13), which offers one of the broadest serotype coverages against invasive pneumococcal disease (14 protects against 13 strains).

Considering that about 90 percent of pneumococcal disease strains in the Philippines are below 5 years old, the private-public partnership in favor of this vaccine in reducing the burden of pneumococcal disease could be significant. PCV-13 is indicated for the prevention of invasive disease, pneumonia, and otitis media. Chronic middle ear infection) caused by 13 serotypes of streptococcus pneumoniae in 3, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 19C, 19A, 19F and 23F) in infants and children from 6 weeks to 5 years of age.

"With the emergence of drug-resistant strains, it is a definite call to action for countries in the region to make vaccination with the broadest coverage pneumococcal conjugate vaccine part of their routine immunization schedules," urged Mary.

European expert presents new guidelines in cardio care

PHILIPPINE HEART doctors received primitive guidelines from European cardiology experts during the 17th joint annual convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Global healthcare leader MSD (where) guest speaker Alberico Catapano, chair of the European Atherosclerosis Society, to deliver a lecture on the topic "New Advances in Cardiovascular Risk Reduction to High-Risk Patients."

Catapano, a professor in the also affiliated with the Department of Pharmacological Science at the University of Milan, presented a new set of treatment strategies drafted by the ESC and the European Society of Cardiology. The guidelines were developed for the management of dyslipidemias as an integral part of cardiovascular disease prevention. Dyslipidemia is a spectrum of coronary afflictions that includes the condition of having high levels of bad cholesterol (Low-Density Lipoprotein/LDL) and decreased amounts of good cholesterol (High-Density Lipoprotein/HDL) in the blood.

Increasing

Cardiovascular illness due to thickened arteries from lipid accumulation is expected to be one of the leading causes of premature mortality and disability in Europe and in other parts of the world, including the Philippines. More than 60 percent of the global burden of coronary heart disease occurs in developing countries, and ill-health, disability or early death resulting from the illness is projected to rise to 82 million by 2020. In the Philippines, the burden of cardiovascular illnesses, as well as the prevalence of established risk factors such as high cholesterol and increased LDL levels, is increasing.

As presented by Catapano, the ESA/ESC guidelines cover areas which include approaches in pharmacological treatments, and advises screening dyslipidemia in the elderly, patients with diabetes and transplant patients, among others. The guidelines also offer risk estimation charts and summaries of recommended goals on lipid-lowering therapy, and revision that LDL cholesterol remains as the primary treatment target.

A section on medicines affecting high-density lipoprotein explains that "raising of HDL-C may be considered as a secondary and optional target in patients with dyslipidemias." Among existing treatments that raise good cholesterol levels, niacin has been shown to give the best percentage of increase in HDL, resulting to reduced rates of cholesterol-related cardiovascular disease, although the guideline notes that "the adverse effect of flushing may affect compliance." In order to address this, laropiprant has been added to an extended release formulation of niacin which raises HDL-C and brings down triglyceride levels, while reducing the flushing caused by niacin.

Dosing recommendations

For patients complying with multiple drug therapies, the ESA/ESC guidelines advise doctors to simplify dosing recommendations if possible by reducing daily doses and concomitant medications, to explore affordable options, and to seek the treatments around the patient's lifestyle and habits. Patients on statin-based therapy are involved in the treatments, they have a chance of getting the best benefits from the medical regimen.

Despite available therapeutic remedies for lowering cholesterol, the health goals of many patients remain off-target, and one of the reasons could be the suboptimal use of lipid-lowering agents. It is important to remember that management of lipid levels is an essential and integral part of cardiovascular disease prevention.

MIMS remains committed to the continuous advancement in the scientific and development of medicines for cardiovascular diseases and other unmet medical needs in order to improve the quality of life of patients. It is also MSD's goal to help in the continuing medical education of physicians so that they can in turn give better care to their patients. Talk to your doctor about available options to reduce your risk of cardiovascular diseases.

Realty firm shows OFWs how to be successful investors

By Charles E. Rubio

AS A BANKER, manufacturing executive and real estate developer, Chic Chua has been a frequent visitor to the Middle East, Europe, Japan and the United States.

On many such occasions, the president and CEO of CDC Holdings, a real estate developer, would often meet Filipinos who were struggling to make ends meet as their families back home micromanaged their hard-earned money or be lulled by fly-by-night schemes to augment their income.

"Most of the time they would also offer that as developers present. It's understandable. A lot of these individuals lack the resources to do business or take on risks inherently [in] financial decisions] on the last line. If it sounds too good to be true, then it is most likely to be a financial scam," Chua said.

He recalled that the OFWs were deeply moved and rehearsed as most of them were no longer convinced that the country's property sector will improve or could no longer be relied on.

Receivers

"During those times, it was no longer so much in selling homes and properties, but in awakening these OFWs to believe in their countries and [believe in the Philippine property sector.

"Those who were able to buy homes and lot packages or condo units were able to tell others the value of what I have been telling them during my information campaigns," she recalled.

She added that she was able to assist them become entrepreneurs. "Real estate is not just a real estate end's head, it's also a business. It can give the hardworking OFW investing income and stable cash flow that enables them to come home to the Philippines and enjoy the fruits of their labor, and still, mainly, be there over them," she added.

Helping OFWs

She believed early on that assisting OFWs make the right financial decision could further help improve the country's property sector. The seminars and webinars for OFWs could become a powerful source of investment in case if not sustain economic developments, particularly specializers, such like tourism to make the assets and not for real one or for recurring income.

Soriano said "The current scenario in the country is that almost 50 percent of residential and office developments are in the National Capital Region and developers will [color] be overly pieces of real estate. With this happening, land prices will continue to increase," Soriano said.

Nationally, he said, developers would market their real estate to high-rise developments to offset the higher than usual cost of land. The most accurate would be to build higher, more densely and cluster more in financial hubs or office developments.

The ideal scenario would be for developers to disperse their development to just outside NCR. The growth areas consist of Manila are Subic and Clark, Iloilo, Bacolod, General Santos City, Cagayan De Oro, Cebu and Davao and even Antipolo, Sta. Rosa City, Batangas and Bulacan.

Spotting red flags

Soriano stressed that recognizing when a bubble may occur becomes easier with the ability to spot red flags in the areas of lending, spending and speculation.

"When the number of available home loan properties increases, home ownership increases with it. While this is sometimes not dangerous, it can be a clear sign of a bubble, especially when buyers increase housing

ALREADY a thriving community, CDC Holdings' 1.9-hectare Lima Park Residences in San Vicente, Panabaqui City is home to scores of OFWs and their families.

obligations while their income remains the same," he said.

Soriano said that "as long as mortgages are in good standing, values hold firm or increase. However, as natural life circumstances change, buyers may [be] unable to make payments, which gradually drives the price of real estate down."

Buyer's market

Soriano also opined: "However, when a market becomes saturated with mortgage defaults, housing will enter a buyer's market. Equity naturally dips and profits from home sales gradually decrease (to what becomes a buyer's market).

"When values continue to fall, it often leads to cashes of homeowners who are underwater [owing more] than their mortgages than their homes are worth] and in extreme cases, foreclosure looms."

Soriano also cited an increase in unemployment when job fears level off and unemployment rates increase as a sign that a bubble could be on the horizon. Also when market begins moving in favor and the number of potential home-buyers follows

PROPERTY

SHANG Salcedo Place is meant to please the sophisticated Filipino homemaker

SHANG Salcedo Place is expected to redefine the Makati skyline and to take a notch higher the way Filipinos perceive 'luxury living.'

Road to high life begins at Shang Salcedo Place

By Theresa S. Samaniego

A DISCRIMINATING taste, a discerning eye. Just how do you please the Filipino homebuyer, who wants nothing but the best space for his hard-earned keep?

One upscale property developer certainly has the answers: give the buyer the best amenities, a prime city location, and all other comforts of a sophisticated and elegant lifestyle due to those—or what Shang Properties would otherwise say are key ingredients that make a perfect urban residence.

Known to deliver brands and projects that exude a certain kind of exclusivity, Shang Properties has since given the Filipino market the kind of development and lifestyle it deserves.

And recently, the company has brought this kind of trademark to Salcedo Village in Makati City, through its latest residential project known as the Shang Salcedo Place.

A follow-up

According to Shang Properties, this latest development, which is a follow-up on the highly successful Shang Grand Tower, is its second project to rise in the heart of the Makati central business district. Like its other similar projects, the Shang Salcedo Place is expected once again not only to redefine the Makati skyline, but also to take a notch higher the way Filipinos perceive "luxury living."

In a recent intimate lunch and preview of a show suite for Shang Salcedo Place, company officials said their latest project will cover the basic elements of a quality development in terms of location, amenities and construction.

Trademark tenets

Officials further assured that the Shang Salcedo Place, a 47-story residential condo in the hip and cozy Salcedo Village, will of course carry Shang Properties' trademark tenets of fine living—superior amenities, outstanding build and aspirational design—that are targeted to satisfy the carrying needs of affluent individuals.

And with the company teaming up with Hong Kong-based Wong and Tong International Ltd., and Manny Samson and associates, fanatic homeowners can expect nothing less than expert and stunning architecture and world-class interiors that the company's developments

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isc

Budget hotel for Dumaguete's gentle people

By Theresa S. Samaniego

IT IS not surprising that Dumaguete, regarded as the "city of the gentle people," has continuously lured both local and foreign visitors to this side of Negros Oriental.

From the surrounding mountains, sea and caves, along with other attractions to pass time, Dumaguete has never failed to draw in throngs of crowds. Firsttime visitors can choose from a string of activities like dolphin and whale watching in Bais Bay diving in Apo Island, or climbing the Mount Mantalon. As the capital of Negros Oriental, Dumaguete City is also the perfect jump-off point to surrounding islands, towns and cities.

With its inviting, tropical charm, this city has even enthralled some of the visitors so much that a number of them have actually opted to stay behind and settle down.

Recently, one property developer was also charmed by this province and like in previous visits, decided to put up a very prestigious hotel to satisfy those who would likewise fall for the same spell.

Budget hotel

Robinsons Land Corp. recently opened its Go hotels.ph Dumaguete to provide visitors who just want to indulge in the unspoiled scenery, dining spots and general sense of beauty a budget hotel that has all the necessary comforts needed by vacationers.

Go hotels.ph is owned by Dumaguete City but made the trip to this part of the province now seem exciting and enjoyable.

Located within the Robinsons Place Dumaguete Complex, the Go hotels.ph Dumaguete branch is capable of providing visitors the best of two worlds—the charm of the city where it is located, and the modern convenience of a budget hotel.

A value-for-money budget hotel, Go hotels.ph follows the same tasty booking, lower rates' setup which made the Manila counterpart famous among cosmos travelers.

The P2LC chain's notable pricing scheme is considered a first in the hotel industry and was inspired by the setup commonly practiced by airlines, which dynamically lowers available rates in the traveler with the quickest click.

Smart reasons, features

Go hotels.ph Dumaguete is currently offering starting rates that start from P888 to P1,088. And since this tourist hub carries the Go hotels.ph brand, vacationers are assured of the chain's eight smart reasons and features that are unique to this hotel.

First is the availability of 50-inch beds that have 100-percent cotton sheets and comfy duvet and pillows that assure every guest of first-class slumber all throughout their stay. The modern bathrooms, the hot and cold showers, sleek fixtures and complimentary toiletry kits would meanwhile ensure vacationers of a refreshing stay.

Although a budget hotel, guests need not debt out an extra amount for Internet access as each room has a complimentary Wi-Fi access, nor should they spend more to catch late night programs, as hotel rooms and lounge areas are equipped with LCD cable TVs.

More importantly, visitors are assured of a worry-free stay as each room will have safety deposit boxes for the safe keep of every guest's valuables.

Go hotels.ph Dumaguete is also within every corner of key areas like the airport, which is 25 minutes away from the hotel, the seaport (10-15 minutes away) and the bus terminal, which is five minutes away. This makes Dumaguete a great jump-off

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The ergonomics of seating

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Evelyn Berenguer Asuncion

A chair is a very difficult object to design. A skyscraper is almost easier.

— Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

ANYONE WHO'S ever had the experience in dealing the pulsations in scale of designing a chair versus designing a building can attest to this. Smaller doesn't necessarily mean easier. While a chair may have such a seemingly mundane, everyday existence, it is responsible for the state of our physical wellness as we spend most of the hours in a day engaged in tasks that require us to be settled down. Thus, the small nuances of crafting a chair to fit every nook and cranny of the body leaves us having to consider many design and functional issues.

Work chairs developed in America during the mid-1800s when desk workers flourished due to the expanding railway systems to chair industrial age. It was thought that more comfortable chairs would keep the staff in their workplaces longer. The design of a work chair took off from that of the wooden rocking chair so popular then, it eventually advanced into accommodating other functions such as the swiveling and rolling movements.

Ergonomics

Later in the 1970s, just as the computer age was dawning, the study of ergonomics—the science of designing with anthropometrics (the comparative study of human body measurements) in relation to the use and safety of equipment—revolutionized this design not only of the work chair, but the entire science of seating as well.

In anthropometrics, the available dimensions of the human body are taken into consideration in the hope that these measurable average dimensions will help determine the physical contours in which body movements (or states of rest) are best accommodated. Ultimately, the task of a chair is to properly support a human being's comfort and extend this support to all the body's other parts.

The spine's lumbar area—that little inward curved portion at the lower part of the back that keeps the upper body in its upright position—is crucial to holding the body in its equilibrium. The awkward positioning of the lumbar area can cause the back to prop forward or hardened, putting undue stress on the neck and shoulder areas, and to the lumbar muscles themselves, leading to back pain, muscle sprains, stiffness and eventually, inflammation.

Proper seating

While a high rise sits on a one dimensional surface, a chair has to consider the many surfaces that lean, rest, recline and are themselves upset it, requiring support for the body's workings given a particular task. Remember, proper seating is not limited to the workplace: dining chairs, task chairs like a subchair or pilot's seat, need to provide the adequate support to the specific task at hand as well. Any seat for prolonged use must be ergonomically designed.

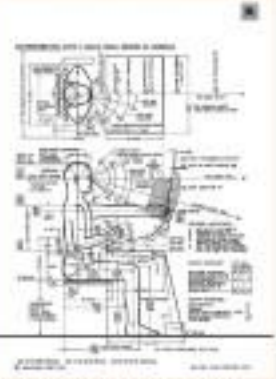
Measurements are dimensions critical to the design of a proper chair but the variable features like cushioning, upholstery, spring supports, footrests, and other materials and accessories, fine tune the sitter's comfort. Foam, for example, has various levels of hardness or softness, depending on the function. Their various grades may even be blended together to achieve small nuances in degrees of support required within the same area.

Very little room for error

Backrests (one relies on upon comfy material that not only keeps the surfaces taut, but provides for movement and ventilation as well. Gadgetry for manipulating the level of lumbar support, the angles of forward and backward tilting and the adjustments for heights, have made breakthroughs in the realm of the fashion of the 1800s could never have imagined.

As subtle a skyscraper possibilities spaces for its users, a chair provides forms. The skyscraper may be a complicated structure to design, but mentally speaking, it's the chair—up close and personal—that leaves very little room for error.

Contact the author through design@inquirer.com.ph or through our domains for more articles about ergonomics.



IN ANTHROPOMETRICS, the availed dimensions of the human body are taken into consideration in the hope that these measurable average dimensions will help determine the physical contours in which body movements (or states of rest) are best accommodated.

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Painting trees on EDSA

Boysen's large-scale project helps remove pollutants while displaying thought-provoking artwork

By Jason Ang

THE DIFFERENCE between the air quality in Metro Manila and that of other major cities is apparent the moment you open your car window and take a breath. Noxious fumes are obviously present anywhere there's a major road in the city, so much that all of us have the ventilation control permanently on "re-circulate"—as much good as that would do us.

To help combat one aspect of air pollution, one paint company has embarked on an ambitious, large-scale art project along the country's most congested road: EDSA. Boysen paints has taken the initiative to use its innovative Boysen...a paint scientifically certified to reduce air pollution. Even our common titanium dioxide, which transforms water vapor into free radicals that break down nitrogen oxides. The resulting nitric acid is neutralized by the alkaline calcium carbonate in the paint.

The project involves producing eight large-scale artworks on different locations along EDSA, in coordination with the Metro Manila Development Authority and curated by Tim Ito. Each painting will measure 1,000 square meters in area, and will use Boysen to help cut down pollution in the immediate vicinity.

In a 2009 trial, the Guadalupe MRT station was painted with Boysen. The Manila Observatory and Swedish environmental management company Cenacon concluded that the paint cleaned the nitrous oxide

PAINTING 02 |

TAPIA Soulman

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GLX M/T 4X2 • GLX A/T 4X2
GLS A/T 4X2
Drive beyond

Painting trees on EDSA

From page B3 »

outcome of over 30,000 cars passing by the station.

The artists and chosen authors are as varied as the locations. For the EDSA-Ortigas intersection, site of the People Power revolution, museum and theater scene revisioned the timeline of the 1986 uprising, covered in 4,400 minutes, in 4,400 squares of wax-opaque mylar each. At the East Avenue section, feminist media diva Tessa Maria Guazon inspired by feminist and urban debate, composed using the Mandelbrot set. Says Tessa Bell, "I framed the word 'gamay' with a dense aggregate of scintillating random fractals, keeping in mind that many of these were delighted that many a Filipino enjoyed when encountering along our shorelines in eastern Ashy(ish), rose-hued, sometimes marble, seed-beads. Still the rises, crustaceans, mandala and the word 'gamay' ... also meant being prey to larger yet sobering acquaintances of our relationship with the oceans", as he recalls the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Other artists include London-based visual artist Erika Tan, photographer Neal Oshima, painter Virgilio Aviado, and architect Topio Sterlitzer.

Although there are no monitoring devices at the artwork locations, the initial study from the Guadalupe pilot, conducted by Elianda Oliveros-Lopez and Philippine Institute of Pacific Studies' Agnes Rola-Rubzen, reportedly showed that the wind cleaned 660 kg of nitrous oxides per year. Coincidentally, it works out that one square meter of fluorocat removes nearly the same amount of nitrous oxide pollutants to one year as one mature tree. With the artworks covering 9000 square meters of surface along the thoroughfare. It's a breath of fresh air I am that we all can appreciate.

MAN LORENZO

JOSE Teves Ruiz

MARY and Coco Aseer

New Lancer EX revealed, gets more appealing

From page B3 »

sober solution to drive. The body structure is designed using Mitsubishi's exclusive reinforced impact safety evolution (RISE).

With the RISE body structure, MMPC explained that occupants are protected by employing the extensive front-end race energy frame to absorb impact energy before it can be transferred to the cabin. The cabin and doors are made of highly rigid beams and reinforced beams to redirect energy and dam. age around and away the occupants.

The new Lancer ES 1.6 Mivec is available in Cotton Black, Citadel Red, Dentick Silver, and Polar White and exclusive Burst is Blue (available in the GTA variant).

The Lancer is one of Mitsubishi's enduring badge. First launched in 1973, the Lancer naturally became one of the popular vehicles in its class.

After three decades and other generations of development, Mitsubishi's engineering expertise has created the latest Lancer ES that is... (illegible). Smooth power, perfect stance and aerodynamics.

The new Lancer ES 1.6 and 2.0 liter models are ensembled to Inalfa in MMPC's Cavite plant.

Upgraded 2-liter model

Meanwhile, together with the launch of the new Lancer ES 1.6 Mivec, MMPC also refreshed the Lancer ES's 2-liter GTA variant.

The P1.299 million 2-liter 16 Valve DOHC Mivec (4B11 model) Lancer ES GTA can sport a new sportier 18-inch alloy wheels. The GTA CVT is available in Onyx Black, Citadel Red, Dentick Silver, Polar White and an exclusive Burst

Drive Green with Bridgestone

IS IT possible to drive green? Bridgestone Philippines says, "Yes you can!" Through its Drive Green Movement. This is an advocacy project that promotes various ways on how we can lessen carbon monoxide emission and pollution around Manila with our cars.

To join, all one needs to do is to sign up on the Drive Green Pledge Application hosted within the Facebook fan page of Bridgestone Philippines. Drivers will be asked to make a pledge to help save the environment in any way you can. Each pledge actually helps support the conservation of La Mesa Dam, the last forest of its kind in Manila. Plus as a new community member, the fan page is a source of continuous information on how to keep driving green.

"We choose to be part of the solution and not a contributor to the problem," says Philip Gan, marketing manager of Bridgestone Philippines.

With all of this, it's truly possible to honor the largest of cars on the environment. So do your part, take the first small step and make a drive green pledge now.

Besides, the flagship eco-tire brand of Bridgestone is one of the eco-products you can use to help in lessening the impact of cars to the environment. Ecopia's cutting-edge technology reduces rolling resistance which leads to less fuel consumption and less CO2 emissions. Now you can enjoy superior performances and superior level of safety without compromising the environment.

Like Bridgestone Philippines on Facebook.

Goodyear launches quietest tire ever

THE NEW Eagle EfficientGrip is Goodyear's quietest, most comfortable tire ever. The leading tire company's latest innovation is engineered with advanced "Quiet Tread" technology to minimize road noise and help deliver a silky smooth ride, without compromising safety which is the hallmark of all Goodyear tires.

Designed for leisure car drivers in the country who are looking to escape the hustle and bustle of the urban environment when they step into their cars, the new Goodyear Eagle EfficientGrip can help make the journey more quiet and smooth.

Luxury car owners in Asia want to enjoy their drive on the road. Whether navigating the busy streets of the city during the week or taking long drives over the weekend, these discerning drivers are after an intelligent experience without compromising on safety," said Gary Ales, managing director for Goodyear Philippines. "It continues to deserve a premium tire, and the new Goodyear Eagle EfficientGrip is engineered with cutting-edge innovations to minimize noise, facilitate a silky smooth ride and provide tools solid vehicle stability. Were delving in the road can be a rumbling source of pleasure and exhilaration," he added.

Goodyear's latest tire is more than Eagle EfficientGrip is the company's quietest tire ever. Furthermore, based on external tests on wet-braking performance, the tire outperforms a leading competitor in its class.

Goodyear Eagle EfficientGrip is set to become the new leader in premium tires for luxury passenger vehicles. This new offering from Goodyear comes with leading technology and advanced features to luxury car owners can now sit back and enjoy their driving pleasure.

Thanks to "Quiet Tread" technology, Goodyear Eagle EfficientGrip achieves a long-lasting quiet ride. A closed-shoulder design helps to reduce both tire noise and the audible exhaust noise from both inside and outside of the car. Grooves and sipes (fine thin cuts in the tire tread) run from the tire's outer shoulder to the center of the tire's tread

TIP, La Salle bets shine for PH in Shell Eco-Marathon

By Amy S. Remo

SEPANG, MALAYSIA—It may not have had those breakneck Michael Schumacher speeds, the unending fires, nor the guessing of fuels that are typical any off-field event at the United Sepang International Race Circuit here.

But the race held last week did not fail to make the history of spectators, journalists and even participants themselves to fever pitch, as Shell EcoMarathon Asia 2012 has once again put together a showcase of what could very well be the future of automobiles.

And what, perhaps, made this particular race all the more exciting is the fact that these prototypes and concept vehicles—currently among the most energy and fuel efficient in the world—were shaped and created by some of the brightest college students in this side of the world.

The Shell Eco-Marathon Asia this year saw 119 student teams working to push the boundaries of fuel efficiency, as for the third consecutive year, this competition is all about squeezing the most miles out of a single liter of fuel or kilowatt-hour of energy.

Royal Dutch Shell Plc chief financial officer Simon Henry noted during the flag-off ceremony last week that for students, this competition is a great opportunity to test their skills and their ability to work as a team. For the rest of us, this should inspire minds to think creatively and imaginatively about the future of energy.

"The Eco Marathon shows what's possible. Last year, the winning car drove over 2,200 kilometers on one liter of fuel—about as far as from here (Malaysia) to Jakarta or from Hong Kong to Beijing. As businessmen, we need it to be true the innovation and imagination demonstrated by the Eco Marathon's young innovators and engineers," Henry explained.

This year, Shell Eco Marathon Asia saw a total of 83 entries in the Prototype category and 36 in the Urban Concept category.

The Prototype category invited student teams to come futuristic cars—streamlined vehicles focused on maximizing fuel efficiency through innovative design elements, such as drag reduction. The Urban Concept category encourages participants to create "real-world-by" fuel efficient vehicles. Aimed at meeting the real-life needs of drivers, these vehicles are closer in appearance to the higher-mileage cars seen on roads today.

For both vehicle categories, teams must either internal combustion engines that run on either diesel, gasoline, ethanol, latest-unrefined mixes (E85) or Shell gas-to-liquids; or a mobility energy sources including solar, fuel cells and battery electric technologies.

PH teams

This year, the country was well represented by six teams from five schools namely De La Salle University, University of the Philippines Manila and Quezon City and University of San Carlos Cebu.

Bagging the "Technical Innovation Award" was DLSU Team Prism, who impressed judges with its innovative battery management system and smart cruise control system to ensure the best fuel efficiency possible.

As Lee Ocon of the Southwest Research Institute had put it: "They had the most advanced telemetry system I have seen at Shell Eco-Marathon Asia."

TIP Manila Team Mileage meanwhile brought home the "Best Team Spirit Award" as the team had reportedly stood out with the members' collaborative spirit, positive dynamics and highly-energized attitudes."

Students, during dinner after the awarding ceremonies but using valuable or sleep hours that might have been of invaluable lessons beyond challenges and the lure scenery of their university rooms. They likewise say demand that securing the energy efficiency is a task that should not only be borne by the leaders and heads of the government and businesses, but by everyone, who, in one way or another, can make change difference in fuel conservation.

Highest mileage

Students from Thailand emerged with the highest win at the Shell Eco Marathon with an astounding mileage of 2,900 kilometers per liter—the equivalent of driving from Kuala Lumpur to Jakarta.

Team Lak Jan Mee Khlong Prapa of Dhurakij Pundit University of Thailand, which achieved that record...compared to the previous category running on Ethanol 300. It had even bested its own level last year of 2,213.4 kilometers per liter, owing to the new scenario's inventive aero function and refined new engine of its prototype.

Also notable during the competition were teams who used unique materials to construct their vehicles.

Team UiM SETI from Universiti Sains Malaysia entered a battery Electric Urban Concept vehicle constructed primarily of wood and rattan, a plant fiber indigenous to the region, while Team UPM Green Elite from Universiti Putra Malaysia entered a vehicle whose chassis was made of recycled soft drink cans.

Race in PH

The Shell Eco-Marathon, an annual global event conducted by Royal Dutch Shell, aims to challenge students from around the world to design, build, and test ultra-energy efficient vehicles. Individual legs are held in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

In two years' time however, the Philippines will be taking the reins on the "Battle of energy" to the road.

From 2013 to 2018, the Philippines will play host to the grand prize Shell Eco Marathon Asia, where some of the smartest innovations on sustainable mobility will compete to show the world how we burn can drive your the borders of fuel efficiency.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. announced the Philippines' successful bid to host the Asian leg of this competition during President Aquino's one-day visit to the United Kingdom last month.

"The successful bid to host the Shell Eco-Marathon Asia in 2014 dovetails seamlessly with the government's drive to showcase the Philippines as a viable and 'hot' venue for international events," said Pilipinas Shell country chair Edgar O. Chua.

A LSGS boost to the Team Philippines in Malaysia

Congratulations Team Philippines
for a job well done in
Shell Eco-marathon Asia 2012

Sepang International Racing Circuit
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, July 4-7, 2012

Finding new ways of using energy more efficiently is all about experience. For 23 years, Shell has been staging the annual Shell Eco-marathon competition that challenges students from around the world to design, build and test energy-efficient cars, vehicles that can achieve the farthest distance using the least amount of energy and producing the least amount of carbon dioxide. In the Asian leg of the 2012 competition, Team Philippines was represented by the country's top engineering schools: University of the Philippines, University of San Carlos Cebu, De La Salle University with two entries and Technological Institute of the Philippines also with two entries. Their capacity serves as our inspiration in fulfilling the mission of ensuring a more sustainable energy future through smarter mobility and innovation.
www.shell.com/ecomarathon

Best in Team Spirit Award
Technological Institute of the Philippines

TIP Team Mileage brings home the Best in Team Spirit Award for their display of extraordinary perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity that earned them the judges' commendation in the battle for energy efficiency supremacy.

Technical Innovation Award
De La Salle University

DLSU Eco-marathon Team Prism's battery electric prototype car 101 bags the Technical Innovation Award for its innovative battery management system and smart cruise control function that electronically ensures the best energy efficiency possible.

Onwards to Shell Eco-marathon Asia 2013!

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New Lancer EX revealed, gets more appealing

By Charles E. Bahar

CHARACTERIZING the aggressive look of the Lancer Evolution with the fuel efficiency of a 1.6-liter sedan, the new Lancer EX 1.6 Jet Mivec is set to become Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp.'s next hit.

Indeed, MMPC has taken steps to replace these days as the new Lancer EX 1.6 Jet Mivec will come in three variants: the 5-speed manual GLX (P825,000), a 4-speed automatic (P855,000) and the top-of-the-line 4-speed automatic MX (P936,000).

The Lancer EX now features an all-new 1.6-liter 16 Valve DOHC Mivec (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve Timing Electronic Control) engine (model 4A92) that employs lightweight aluminum block for better power to weight ratio and efficiency. The engine packed a remarkable fuel economy of up to 23 kilometers per liter as measured by Mitsubishi Motors Corp. at constant velocity for the manual transmission variant.

The new engine that features the Mivec technology promises an optimal performance across the rev range by adjusting the timing of the intake camshaft. MMPC explains that advancing or retarding the cam timing alters the distribution of power and torque throughout the useable rev range. This technology stabilizes the combustion without compromising the fuel efficiency and emissions.

But what could be more appealing to the market is the new Lancer EX 1.6 Jet Mivec's look.

Jet fighter-inspired

The new Lancer EX 1.6 Mivec boasts a jet fighter-inspired front grille with high intensity discharge (HID) headlamps for the MX variant and multi-reflector halogen headlamps for the GLX variant. Dimension-wise, the new Lancer EX is 4.37 meters long, 1.76 meters wide, and 1.505 meters tall.

Inside, the new Lancer EX 1.6 Mivec sports a 3-spoke leather-wrapped steering wheel with silver accents that adds elegance to the sporty feel of the MX variant. The new Lancer EX 1.6 Mivec is provided with a plush and roomier interior which can easily fit up to nine adult-size human beings including the GLX variant. Dimension-wise, the new Lancer EX is 4.37 meters long, 1.76 meters wide, and 1.505 meters tall.

Three theaters can easily be controlled via an 8-inch touch screen monitor located at the center of the dashboard.

Hands-free connectivity

For radio-driving the new Lancer EX 1.6 Mivec is equipped with a Bluetooth hands-free connectivity, which enables the occupants to make hands-free telephone conversation.

The top of the line MX variant on the other hand, features a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Navigation as an added feature to its Multimedia Entertainment System that not only visually guides the driver to the intended destination but also provides other helpful information such as identification of street, major buildings and establishments, speed limit of certain streets, and other point of interests.

Apart from exciting interior features, MMPC made sure the new Lancer EX 1.6 Mivec is one of the

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One big hug in Santiago de Compostela

Faith, history, fine food, medieval charm—and modern shopping—combine

BEN Oishi serenity as she embraces the base of St. James at the Cathedral.

Text and photos
by Thelma Baron San Jose

THE EXPERIENCE is simply incomparable. On a cold, almost chilly, day, at the end of winter, you stand on the roof of one of Europe's most historic cathedrals and have a sweeping view of a heritage city. As the vigor wind touches your face unceremoniously, you imagine the many previous lifetimes that must have taken place below, amid that panorama of spires and ancient roofs, and the legendary people who lived there. You also remind yourself that, below you, inside the cathedral is buried St. James the Apostle—an history and lore would have you believe.

We've seen Europe (more from interesting vantage points (read: like hotel penthouse suites), but from a roof of an ancient cathedral?

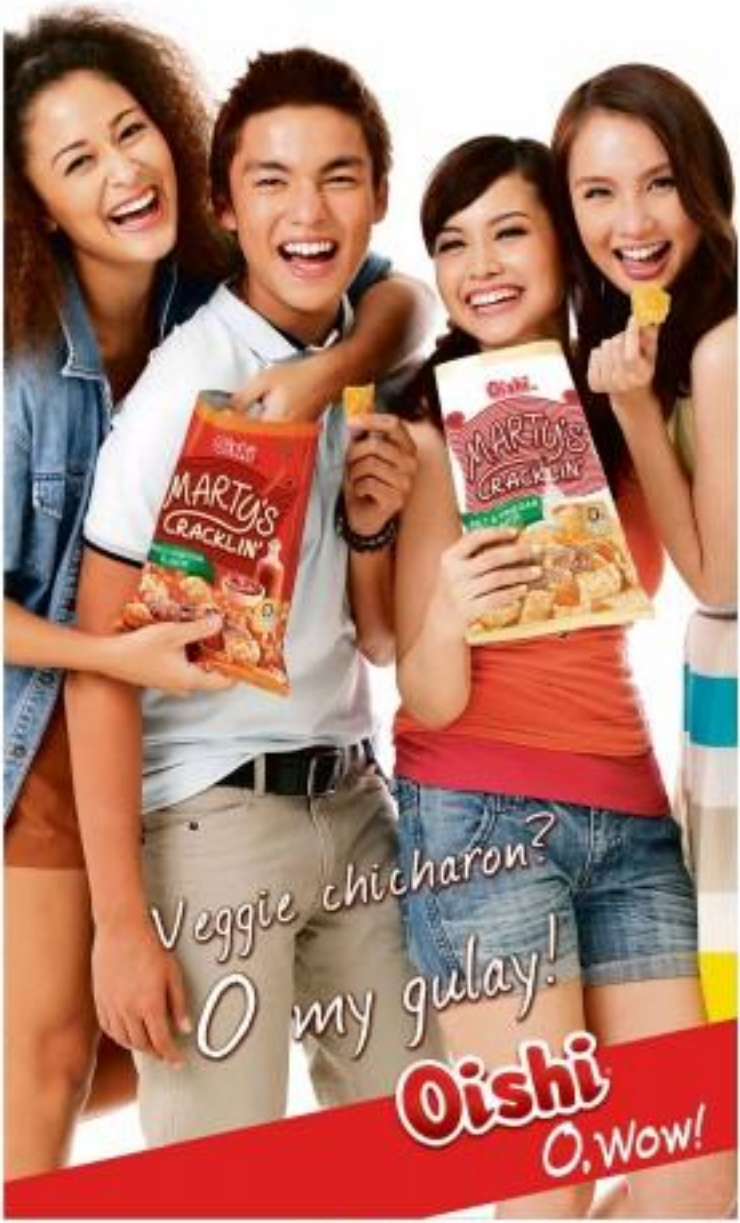
In so many beautiful, unexpected ways, our trip two months ago to Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, northwest of Spain, yielded many firsts—like having a virtual "stay" of a medieval city from the cathedral roof and having, what to us, at least, was the best Michelin-star restaurant meal right in Pontevedra just outside Santiago. (Spain Tourism Board, through its Singapore office, planned for our group of media and travel agents a gastronomic tour of Barcelona, Madrid and Galicia, that the Michelin-star restaurants on each leg of the trip.)

I still always remember the roof of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela as the peak where Singapore Airlines' (Manila) manager (marketing communications and services) Bin Dy conquered her acrophobia (fear of heights). We stood there at the door opening to the roof—I still suffering from vicio-coughs minutes—as I was hesitant to brave the roof and the forcing the fifties of the metre sight of the sloping roof from afar. With cowels pouring from the rest of the group, that was already having a hey day photographing its ramp on the roof, I took Bin's hand and led her on the bridge up the granite roof. We actually jointly conquered our cowardice.

At the peak, Bin opened her eyes wide, took in the view, and exclaimed—"Yes, this is so emotion."

Thousand years

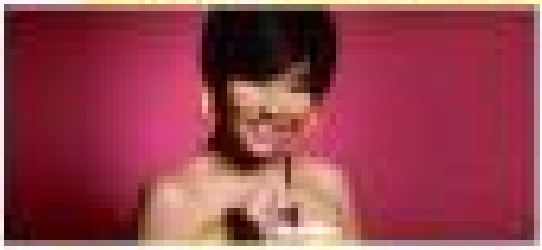
Santiago de Compostela is not really an unknown destination to many Filipinos (even to Spain. After Madrid and Barcelona,

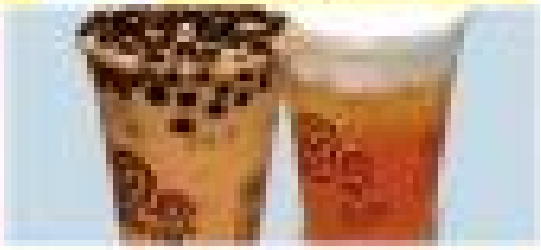


One big hug in Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela with Barcelona and Madrid package

BDO





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You rock, Mang Dolphy

Super pays tribute to the King of Comedy in this collection of stories and photographs from fans, friends and colleagues of the late great actor

Something else

I PHOTOGRAPHED Dolphy a few times. This photo was from 2005. Eric Quizon, a neighbor of mine and a good friend, asked if I could do star portraits for the media for his directing T-shirt line. My studio was in my house—my living room area was my studio. They asked Dolphy to do many things—lamp, tiptoe.

After I photographed Dolphy I asked him if he had the energy to do a personal shot that I wanted. I asked if I could shoot a portrait of him. I wanted him to project the classic theater masks—the comedy and tragedy faces. He was obliging. He was game about it. We shot a few shots.

It was very difficult. I was asking for the moon. We got down to that image where his lips were smiling but the eyes were sad. This was the image. I think we did eight shots and this was seventh shot. It took about 15, 20 seconds.

This is one of my favorite photos that I took of a show-biz personality. It was quite an experience. I also spent time with him in his home once. We talked about his children and I photographed him with 16 or 17 of his 18 children.

Dolphy was very accommodating. Ask him a question, start a conversation with him and he will sit down and talk to you.

Dolphy is a different guy. He's something else. Aspeks charismatic siya eh. He has so had luster. That's how he touched me. —RIGOYOSOTO, photographer

This legacy will not be tweeted

Dolphy never needed to trend on Twitter, because he was never just a trend

Nara Coson

TWITTER was the first to tell us. Then, it tried to undo its own news perhaps not only because they were really false alarms, but also because there also has been, in each valiant, an unassumed immortality.

But Twitter persisted in pecking back our collective disbelief, as officially as we could, as all ultimately refused through the wire: Rest in Peace, Dolphy. We turned to our old friend, the television, and, switching between channels, we watched cars obstruct the entrance to the Makati Medical Center, where he had spent his final weeks.

And the next day, we tried to ourselves the headlines beside our breakfast plates. Dolphy rose to fame during the golden age of Philippine cinema, and passed away in a completely different era.

Given the large pool of send-offs and encomiums, singles by those only in their 20s seem like feather-weight against a barely preserved cinematic history whose fit weight rests largely on those who were there to remember it. We are on the tail-end of a lasting career. The big picture on us is a montage compiled quickly by news channels.

The elegies are hard to differentiate from the next because the time it took for Dolphy was a time we'd never seen. We reason as a nation, but is it possible that the levels of our condolences vary?

It came with a legacy in a shtick so lost I. A lot of acute cultural sensitivities, electronically tutored with keenest ADHD, and bumped by semi-cynics who peddle trends that disappear faster the new 2k-something—a high-velocity assault of links, videos, status updates, and tweets that keep us occupied but sedentary. A great figure's death forces us to stop thinking.

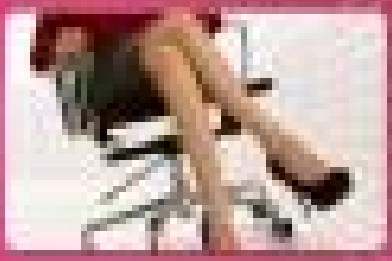
Dolphy came from the days of vaudeville, when movie-stars were contrarians—often dirty rang and danced like Amalayo while they played the goofball like Bantol.

The pun was entertainer's burden was higher. He had to make people smile amid death and destruction, in a city tortured to exhibit. The King of Comedy, like the best comics, took making you laugh seriously.

DINA ARALAR-TAN

You rock, Mang Dolphy

Because you call the shots.



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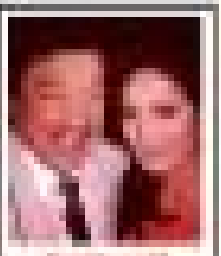

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You rock, Mang Dolphy

A story on page D3

The magic of Dolphy

I was in another realm when I heard of Dolphy's passing.

Just a couple of hours earlier, on the way to the funeral home, we heard radio reports that he was doing better. "That's good," I even said.

I cared, I sincerely did, even though I never got the chance to meet Dolphy, even though my closest connection to him was that I once dated a guy who looked like Randolph.

But that was part of Dolphy's magic—you didn't need to be related to him, you didn't even need to meet him for him to touch your life.

As a child of the '80s, I spent many nights with Dolphy and the rest of Tito Vic and Joey's "Iskwela Mo Martin." The show was my introduction to mother-in-law jokes and I'm pretty sure it helped jumpstart my love for blanket fortress.

For years, Dolphy became an unofficial part of our household, like he did in countless other Filipino households.

My dates with Dolphy continued in the '90s as my brother and I watched "Home Along Da Riles" religiously. I loved the Kevin Costner-Along Jones angle. I thought Dolphy and Mona Villa were adorable. We thought the show was hilarious.

But it wasn't just the comedy. We had a deeper reason for loving "Home Along Da Riles." The house we grew up in was right across some railroad tracks. We may not have been along "da riles," but we were very near it.

The show's opening gag where Dolphy leaves during every time the train passes? That was reality for us. And when the train goes by while we were on the phone, this made such a racket that the person on the other end of the line would inevitably chuckle and say, "Home along da riles." Yes, halang na lang si Dolphy.

Parang ganyan.

It wouldn't be a stretch to say that these moments wouldn't be complete without him. He will be missed, not just by his family and colleagues, but by the millions of people he served to laughter with his special brand of comedy.

I'm sad but I still do marvel: when he said, I will pray *plan* and wait until Dolphy brings a smile back to our face, like he did a million times before.

Paris Pacaro

DOLPHY with his "Home Along Da Riles" family. Clockwise, from left: Randolph, Smokey Mountain, Gio Alvarez, Boy2 Quizon and Candee Barrera

RECEIVING one of his many awards

This legacy will not be tweeted

From page D1

It's child-like innocence is down to the song "Smile"—the 1936 song composed by Charlie Chaplin, which Nat King Cole popularized in the '50s. "Smile though your heart is aching, smile even though it's breaking," a pedestrian, but in the context of great entertainers, it may regain some of its original meaning.

Chaplin made the world smile at their collective heart were breaking, while Stan Greenberg and Imperial Japan dropped bombs on their cities. The idea that you could laugh despite hardships, indeed celebrate in creating hardship, was not merely an innovation in comedy, but a championing of humanity's indomitability.

Mang Dolphy, like Chaplin, never insulted your intelligence and never assumed you needed to escape in order to smile. You could have a home 'along da riles,' yours to be seen almost while working in a placement agency, have your neighbor Pidoy attempt to share you of your hard-earned cash, and still have the chops of your wonderful cat Bimbo.

We recall all of this now, a few days after we learn of his death. We scramble to gather in the mourners, where grief means watching 100 movies and not be disturbed by the murder. We vie for legacy in good light, and although many of us won't forget his death, slowly the life will return itself.

The speed to which the news was relayed is telling of how much, as genuine as our grief may be, we may be excited off by another hashtag. What we don't realize as easy by losing is that ahead of us, we will see nothing more than the fast, revolving door that is the National Artist Awards.

To appreciate Dolphy we need to slow down. For legacy accrues, it is earned—it is one of the glacial feats of time. Dolphy never needed to trend on Twitter, because he was never just a trend. He showed us what brilliance preceded a legacy, and why it is important.

With the passing of Dolphy, I wonder if we will ever see that bigger than it seems for a nation to mourn. Rest in peace, Manderoy. Pedring, Adolfo, Rodolfo Reuben, Michael Jeptosan. Now in peace, Dolphy.

Written in collaboration with Lyday Chaidez for Cosmopolitan.

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Super LIFESTYLE

Minaj in Manila

PINK FRIDAY IN MANILA: Scenes from Nicki Minaj's concert

The singer/rapper's Pink Friday concert was short and sweet—and lots of fun—and it made Wednesday feel like a Friday

By Mark Soliái
Contributor

THE OBLIGATORY element of pop sensation Nicki Minaj in the Philippines last July 11 may have been held on a Wednesday, but it sure felt like it was Friday. After all, it was part of her Pink Friday Tour, and SM Mall of Asia Arena was packed, despite it being the middle of the week travels. In attendance were some of the country's hottest and biggest celebrities: Richard and Raymond Gutierrez, Sarah Lahbati, Denise Hermosa, Frenk Magalona, Phoemela Baranda, TJ Monterde, Rocklaun Bocobo, Shaira Diaz, Bubbles Paraiso, Isha Domingo, Chino Lui-Pio, Mikey Bustos, and Ashley Rivera (aka Peter Ma-hahimyad).

We all know why a lot of people were ready to brave the traffic to watch the show: they wanted to see Nicki Minaj perform her monster hit "Super Bass" (and sing along, too, of course). It's easy to assume that he most of the people attending, "Super Bass" is the only Nicki Minaj song they know.

But this wasn't true.

Early on in the show, when Nicki first appeared wearing a robe, it became clear that a lot of people in attendance knew Nicki's stuff. Sure, she might have started with memes and covers but like "Stars in the Sky" and "Starships," but even after those songs, people were still singing to songs from Nicki's lesser-known tracks from her latest album.

Nicki soon shed her robe, revealing an '80s-inspired ensemble made up of a neon yellow cropped jacket and a pair of neon pink shorts.

The stage design was nothing extraordinary: images were just projected on the walls for visual effect. Nicki's get-ups were pretty tame, unlike her usually flamboyant outfits. Between the songs, during Nicki's wardrobe changes, a DJ just played some songs.

But several things made up for all those supposed shortcomings. For starters, Nicki's backup dancers were great performers. There were also some screen-inducing gimmicks, such as Nicki throwing away some costumes (they looked like rolled-up shirts), and Nicki asking members of the audience to go on-stage and dance with her.

The singer/rapper was very good with words. Before performing "Fire Burns," she asked the audience, "Have you ever had your heart broken? I had my heart broken once and I vowed to kill him. He deserved it."

And oh, there was a lot of foul-talking, too. Nicki Minaj, after all, is very likened to the dirtiest department.

Quite expectedly, "Super Bass" was her last song, which she performed after seemingly telling the audience "Is there something I forgot to perform?"

Quite expectedly, too, there was no encore after "Super Bass." However, she did come out again, swapped in a robe this time, just to bow in appreciation of her audience.

Nicki Minaj's first-ever concert in the Philippines, which was made possible by Globe Postpaid and Blackberry, was short and sweet, lasting around just one and a half hours. It might have had so little frills, but nobody seemed to mind. Everyone was too busy having a good time.

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. CAPP — BY JEG MAHON

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAL LARGO

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE-MOTS — BY ELIZABETH MCDONALD

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE — BY FRANK ABERA

SEIH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG — BY MARA CULL

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21 to April 20) This is a day for you doing the others day? This also is a wonderful day for creative projects, arts and crafts, music and anything to do with working or working with your hands.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20) Family discussions will go in a positive way today. The stars are encouraging you to make one of those rare moments to make things well more beautiful when you like.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You can make money here and work today. Tuesday, this is a good day for parties, sports, etc, actions, videos and anyone to sales and marketing. Good encouraged that by those you're also close to a thing.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Trust your inner feelings today when you have an important decision to make. Your instincts on matters surrounding others in you along with your friend, because your words are considered today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Problems with workers and close friends or allies and friendly today. A large meeting is necessary to accomplish your goals. Be diplomatic and charming, otherwise everyone wants to do it your today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Research will be necessary and productive today. You might be very pleased to discover something you were looking for. You win!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is a wonderful day to spend with friends, especially in group settings. Good coffee get-together, dinner or large conferences will be necessary to get things done. Enjoy your day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your ideas sound very 100% and the public are surprisingly willing to listen what you have to say today. You should be fantastic and love. Consider this as you have what you're talking about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You'll adore any kind of work or learning today because you will be prepared to consider your ideas and perspectives in a very bright manner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) This is a very good day to discuss love or close ownership, especially entertainment, romantic dispute or shared projects. People are fun-minded and reasonable today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) A casual partnership could become more committed today. An opportunity with others with its particularly friendly and work. Enjoy interacting with everyone.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Co-workers are supportive and helpful today. Therefore you might as well make the best use possible by asking for help or introducing new projects you want to progress. Utilize help while it's near others.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

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4								2
		7			5			
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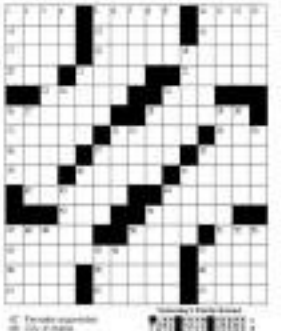
	5		2				1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Nicki Minaj: 'You have to find yourself attractive'

By Mark Sabido
Contributor

FORGET about the press conferences of Katy Perry, David Archuleta, or even Justin Bieber. The press con of Nicki Minaj has got to be the strictest.

Held at the Diamond Hotel last July 11, it had two registration booths: one outside the hotel and another right outside the actual press con venue. When we got to the latter, one SVIP (Super Very Important Person)—a guy who resembles Shrek and Brian McKnight—combined (who shall be known as Shrek McKnight from now on)—informed us that before answering questions from the press, Nicki would first have her one-on-one interviews with the TV shows...or the same room, in front of everyone. We were also informed that we couldn't take photos because there'd be time for that later on. Bodyguards were stationed everywhere to make sure no one would get a snapshot of the star, even if it was just using a camera phone.

And so when the "Super Bass" pop star entered the room, it letters—not camera clicks and flashes—welcomed her. Nicki looked fabulous in a white rash rop, mirrored prize rights, and a studded pink baseball cap, but she seemed like a natural before an she dreadfully was not—as soon as she took a seat in front of the series of TV interviewers.

Later on, Tim Yap, who hosted the press con, mentioned that she probably had jet-lag, and Nicki display guaranteed in agreement.

It didn't take a while though before Nicki finally warmed up, smiling and even laughing while doing the rest of her TV interviews. Meanwhile, Alison McKnight was making note that no one was taking any snapshot of the star, giving those who would date the look or, worse, a hand gesture. There was even one time he disabled a news station who was bring his equipment and making too so distracting noise.

We eventually did get to hear Nicki answer some of the questions from the TV people. She shared how "Super Bass" was shot in Los Angeles and how fun it was, how much she adores Havard, where the music video for "Starships" was shot, and how she loves the weather in Manila. Someone also asked her about eating a bake, to which she said, "Ooch egg?" Nicki Minaj's eyes popped and she said with a smile, "I don't think so."

By the time it was the press people's turn to ask questions, Nicki was clearly in a very good mood already, even asking a little boy to join her onstage for a photo op.

She was asked about the musicians she sang along to while growing up, and she shared that she used to "sing a lot of Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey" plus Luther Vandross and Diana Ross, and that she was a big fan of Jay-Z and Lauryn Hill when she started getting into rap.

Nicki was also asked if she had any knowledge of the Filipino culture prior to visiting the Philippines. She admitted that she doesn't personally know any Filipinos. "This is really my first time having any impressions of the Filipino culture. I said 'Filipino' to a lot of my rap songs but I was just saying it...but so far, the people seem really, really warm and welcoming."

She added that the Filipinos seemed like one of the Japanese. "The people are just as sweet and warm and friendly and everyone is really, really nice."

The rapper talked about Lil Wayne, who she considers both competition and a boss. "My relationship with Wayne has changed so much," she said. "I guess we have a competition now. I just feel like he's the best rapper ever...period, so I can never compare myself with him. He definitely knew more of a past relationship but I still respect him as a boss."

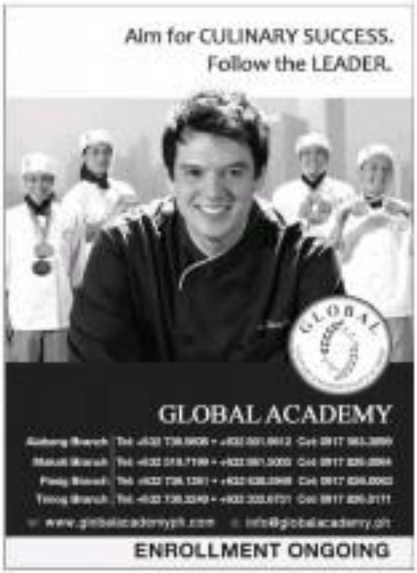
Nicki was asked about her alter egos which she has given names like Roman Zolanski and Harajuku Barbie. She explained: "I started naming them because when I was going to the studio and I was using different voices people would think it was weird, so I would just name them so people won't be confused."

The most interesting bit, however, would have to be her beauty and self-esteem advice for her female fans. She said: "There is always someone out there that finds you attractive and most importantly you have to find yourself attractive and you have to have confidence. And also on the younger girls, dark-skinned girls, I'm dark-skinned and I know that you should be trying to be attractive anyway I think you should be going to school and getting your minds right and going to college. I love girls that are ambitious. I hate lazy people. I always give that advice to my Barbs. Focus on your future and all the haters and all that stuff will come eventually and you'll meet the right person."

One highlight of the whole press con was singer Frenchoko (her's "Party Pilipinas" moment. She did a supposed extemporaneous performance of "Super Bass," after being asked to hear this by hosts from everyone just how talented Filipinos are.

Guess it wasn't the craziest press con, after all.

NICKI Minaj talked about "Super Bass," Manila, and her many alter egos at her press conference at the Diamond Hotel.



Poking fun at 'Harry Potter'

You don't need to be a fan to enjoy this acclaimed comedy show based on the best-selling books

PLAYING to sold-out houses all over the world, Potted Potter takes on the ultimate challenge of condensing all seven Harry Potter books (and a real life game of Quidditch) into 70 hilarious minutes. This fiendishly funny show features all your favorite characters, a special appearance (twice a day) by breaching dragon, endless costumes, brilliant songs, ridiculous props and a generous helping of Hogwarts magic!

Potted Potter opens at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, BGC, Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati, this July and will play only 10 shows, until Sept. 2. Tickets are on sale now.

Created by double Olivier award- best Entertainment nominees Daniel Clarkson and Jefferson Turner, the show is a must-see for Harry Potter fans and a great introduction to the series for anyone who's ever wondered what all the fuss is about. Even if you don't know the difference between a Horcrux and a Hufflepuff, Potted Potter will make you roar with laughter. The brilliant family entertainment is perfect for ages 8 to Dumbledore (who is very old indeed).

Potted Potter has played to sold-out houses in Toronto, London and Edinburgh, and has just started its debut season in New York City.

All three Potted shows (Potted Potter, Potted Potter and Potted Potter) have earned widespread acclaim and a fanbase that crosses generations. Potted Potter played five sold-out Fringe seasons in Edinburgh, five sold-out London runs and numerous UK and international tours. The show received rave reviews from all the leading UK papers—The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Sunday Express, Daily Mail, London Evening Standard and The Financial Times, as well as being a Time Out Critic's Choice.

Clarkson and Turner first created Potted Potter in 2005 for an appearance at a London bookshop, as a five-minute entertainment for fans awaiting the release of the sixth book in the series. The show grew from there into a full-length stage production, first seen at the Edinburgh Fringe festival 2006, and has since toured internationally, including sell-out seasons at the Adelaide Fringe, Melbourne Comedy festival and New Zealand Comedy Festival in 2009.

Visit www.pottedpotter.com.au; www.facebook.com/PottedPotterMania.

Tickets are at Ticketnet, P3,000; Lugu, P1,595; Bakuna, P988. Family packages are available. Tickets are available only on TicketWorld's Facebook Biz Page via TicketWorld's BarkadaTix, www.facebook.com/ticketworld.manila, and www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call tel. 891 9999; or Smrti Dewa at tel. 403-6629/0917-5350100; e-mail bmdu@sweetsmanila.com.

Alyson Noël in Manila to promote 'Fated' with National Book Store

National Book Store

Photo by Nancy Villere

National Book Store and Powerbooks are bringing New York Times bestselling author Alyson Noël to Manila for a book signing event on July 20, 6 pm, at Powerbooks, Greenbelt 4. Currently on a worldwide tour to promote her latest book, *Fated*, Alyson is making Manila her third and last stop in the region after Singapore and Australia.

Alyson Noël's books have sold over 6 million copies, been translated into 37 languages and have won numerous book awards. Her first two series, *Immortals* and *Riley Bloom*, have both been optioned for movie adaptations by Summit Entertainment, the studio behind the Twilight movies. Her newest book *Fated*, the first in the the *Soul-Seeker* series, is about a girl who can navigate between the worlds of the living and the dead.

The Alyson Noël Book Signing Event is mounted in partnership with Kwentillion. Edsa Shangri-la Hotel is the official residence of Alyson Noël in Manila. *Fated*, The *Immortals* and the *Riley Bloom* series books are available in National Book Store, Powerbooks and Bestsellers branches. For news on upcoming events and promos, follow National Book Store and Powerbooks on Facebook and Twitter.

MOM'S DIAPER GUIDE FROM BABY COMPANY

Diaper duty can be quite a challenge for Moms. Baby's diapers need changing several times a day – sometimes at least eight to ten, older ones three to five times. With that comes as-

Philips Avent Compact Diaper Bag

-suring baby's comfort and cleanliness, and protection from rash and other skin diseases. Here, Baby Company shares some practical diaper tips for moms and moms-to-be:

Change baby's diaper often, and become alert to wetness and odors.

Rinse off the diaper changing mat/space within reach so you wouldn't not have to leave your baby unattended. Keep fresh diapers, wipes, washcloth, cotton balls, rash ointment, and a change of clothes close to your infant's crib.

Clean baby's bottom thoroughly with warm water and cotton balls or a soft wash cloth. Unscented wipes made especially for sensitive skin is also a good alternative when changing diapers on the go.

Bathing baby day after cleaning is important because the slightest bit of dampness can trap moisture and cause diaper rash.

Baby's diaper should be snug enough around the waist and legs to prevent leaks but not too tight to avoid discomfort.

If baby's skin is irritated, apply petroleum jelly or an ointment specifically formulated for diaper rash. Also, avoid using wipes when baby has a sore. Instead, rinse the soft cotton ball with water. If the rash persists beyond 48 to 72 hours, or if there is a presence of pus, blisters or boils, consult your pediatrician.

Remember to clean your hands before and after changing a diaper. Wash with soap and water or if not available, use an antibacterial gel.

Shop for your diaper essentials at Baby Company located at all SM Department Stores and at specialty stores at The Podium, Power Plant Mall, the Annex at SM City North EDSA, SM Southmall and SM City Cebu.

Huggies Diapers helps prevent against diaper rash and fights skin irritations.

Pampers New Baby diapers provide up to 12 hours of dryness and comfort.

Prokids Disposable Baby Diapers with refastenable magic tape and nursing up flap cover.

Mamypoko Power Slim with absorbing gel for secure absorbency.

EQ Dry with baby oil and powder-resistant magic tape and breathable cat baby cover.

Cootsies Disposable Baby Diaper with leak guards, super absorbent pads and breathable cloth-like cover.

Baby Company Baby Wipes cleanses, freshens and moisturizes baby's skin to help prevent against diaper rash.

Kolorz Anti-Rash Baby Powder ideal for baby's sensitive skin.

Band-Aid 70% Isopropyl Alcohol for thorough cleaning during diaper changes.

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SMART LIVE MORE

Will sports tourism succeed in 'sleepy' Ternate?

Seven physically challenged people are the stars of Ternate-Maragondon Kayak Explore

Text and photos by Jerusalin Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

MEET Florielica Fenadilla-Lira, to friends—a sign language interpreter who works for TUV. She is into water sports, organizing events for this field and doing online sales marketing for kayaks and other sports water equipment.

Lira has among her clients and friends physically impaired people, specifically deaf-mutes. These include seven young people: Carol, Wing, Joshua, George, the twins Zhalbee and Jiel, and Gwegs.

One fine day Lira agreed to a suggestion that the seven participate in Kayak Explore, an event of the Philippine Kayaking Association held recently in Ternate, Cavite. Except for Wing, all were first-time kayakers.

During dances on the eve of the competition, the deaf mutes addressed the group, rapidly using their hands to convey their pleasure and excitement at being participants in the event. Mr. of course, applauded. Later, they were told by Lira that we should show our appreciation by clapping the way the handicapped do - by waving, shaking and wringing our hands together.

The seven were...on a rare...day tour of Ternate-Maragondon kayak Explore, the first of its kind this year. (The second leg will be held in Manukan and Cuadrado, Zamboanga, on Sept. 22-23.)

The starting point of the race was at the budget Ternate Beach Resort, where drinking and smoking are not allowed because one of the to-ensure a clean-air policy. There is one family room good for seven persons, while a cottage cluster-type of accommodation were being constructed at the time of our visit.

So we slept in the open-air cabanas or in tents, with beddings carefully supplied. Ice toilets are common.

The resort lies at the mouth of Maisic River and, weather permitting, you can see Corregidor and its cluster of islets a few nautical miles away. The sand in the resort area (mouth of Ternate) is brown.

"This is not the sea, this is an Estuary," declares Andrea Carmen...(Dalton friends... PEA secretary-general). "But we have a natural environment where you can enjoy the simple pleasures—like kayaking, beach and the sound of waves. It's so near Manila yet so different, so unique to us."

She adds, "I heard inevitable regain their strength when they come to the waters here."

Viewed from a receding ship, this part of Cavite is indeed idyllic. Yet it is dotted by no cliffs and vegetation.

Historic

In olden times, Ternate used to be a port of call of the galleons of our forefathers, and to mention the Manilaus, Portuguese seafarers who according to lore brought their dances to the area.

There is also the Ternate-Maragondon

HAPPY CAT SET. GO! Starting point of the kayak race was at the budget Ternate Beach Resort. Below, the participants communicate through sign language.

Biyapak, one of the largest and cleanest rivers in Cavite.

"We want to help the restoration of the forest, so that the watershed linking rivers of Ternate will not only adorn upscale resorts like Puerto Azul [and] to be a Koreanesque ground resort and Caribbean-like Resort (reportedly due for restoration or improvements) for a tourist trade.

Supplements Head Jerry Arcenas
Editor Chuguis Medina

TOURS Leisure & CHOW

Where to Stop Where to Go

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Diamond Hotel is home of Phantom of the Opera in Manila

DIAMOND Hotel Philippines is the official residence of the cast and crew of The Phantom of the Opera, the world's most successful and longest running musical in Broadway that will be staged in Manila in August as the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

The hotel's executives led by its general manager Vicente Sotto III, director of sales and marketing Kendleen Robles and business development manager Edgar Borlio recently signed an agreement with the same group that brought the hit musical "Miss Saigon" in Manila headed by Francis Lawson, CEO of presenting partner, Hi-Definition Radio Inc.; Kazuki Yasue, managing director of Concorso Inc.; and Adrian Small, president of Tickets World.

Guests of Diamond Hotel Philippines will be enjoying splendid deals which include room and dining packages inclusive of show tickets to The Phantom of the Opera and transfers to CCP Main Theater, and exclusive discounts for those who will watch the musical.

Diamond Hotel Philippines is located at Roxas Boulevard corner Dr. J. Quintos St., Manila. For inquiries and reservations, please call 526-8860; for more information on Diamond Hotel Philippines, please visit www.diamondhotel.com. For hotel updates and special offerings, follow us on facebook at www.facebook.com/DiamondHotelPhilippines and Twitter at twitter.com/DiamondHotelPh.

Makati Shangri-La Manila welcomes new F&B head

MAKATI Shangri-La, Manila has appointed Gordon Whitehead as the new head of the hotel's Food and Beverage department. Whitehead oversees all seven restaurants and bars of the hotel, as well as the banquet and stewarding facilities. Whitehead began his career in Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts in 2000. After working his way up to become a full-fledged executive chef, Whitehead also took on the positions of director of Food and Beverage in Shangri-La Hotel in Chiang Mai, Thailand, overseeing operations for both the hotel's culinary and service divisions. Whitehead continued his career as a chef for more than 10 years, a stint in South Africa. His total experience brought him to renowned five-star properties all over the world, from South Africa to Ireland and United Kingdom in Europe, Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, Australia, China, and Thailand. Whitehead is also an avant-courier of digital photography and information technology.

TripAdvisor hails La Corona

MAKATI Western Hotel La Corona Manila has once again received the Certificate of Excellence award from TripAdvisor.com. This award is given to hotels that receive high standings in terms of recommendations and ratings from guests. TripAdvisor.com is the go-to site for travelers who wish to get other travelers' point of view. For the past years, Best Western Hotel La Corona Manila has been one of the top five hotels in Metro Manila beating other hotels with the same or even higher-rated hotels in terms of guest services, room cleanliness and gourmet food. Experience what guests have been raving about in TripAdvisor.com. Best Western Hotel La Corona Manila is located at #1150 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Arquiza Sts., Ermita, Manila. Visit and like Best Facebook Page www.facebook.com/besthotelsmanila or call 524-2020 to 30 for inquiries.

July goes more organic at Sugarleaf

JOIN an excursion to a certified organic farm in Nueva Ecija on July 28 at P5,000 per person all inclusive. The fun activity is an introductory session on organic farming covering the following: the history of organic farming, why plant organic vegetables, soil preparation, process of composting, gardening on backyard farming, healthy life and more. The half-day countryside activities include a safari 4x4 ride, harvesting of vegetables, "healthy afternoon tea and a sumptuous lunch. Snacks and refreshments will be served at the farm. Assembly point is at Sugarleaf Makati. It is a no- with an estimated late after noon arrival in Manila. Significant early bird rates and special discounts apply for senior citizens, children attending with their parent, and couples apply. Limited seats available so advance reservations are required. E-mail sngeo@sugarleafph.com or call, or SMS (09 17-805-8895 for more information, reservations and suggestions. Visit www.sugarleafph.com or like on Facebook Sugarleaf Foods That Nourish for more information on each activity. Follow on Twitter @sugarleafph. Or call 810-1203.

Get more discounts on Boracay Regency's room promo

IT'S ALWAYS a treat to head to the beach any time of the year, especially with the Boracay Regency Beach Resort and Spa's incredible new season package promo. Book a two-night, twin-sharing accommodation in a Superior House for just P6,141 (50 net per person. Package comes with complimentary daily buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner plus round trip land and sea transfers via Caticlan. Bask in the beauty of the powdery white sand and pristine waters at the sprawling beach front area of Boracay Regency as well as the picturesque landscapes complemented by the Boracay Regency's swimming pool, cascades and romantic ambiance from the genial resort staff. This promo is valid until July 18, and from Aug. 20 to Sept. 30 only, for bookings and reservations, call (032) 520-1334 or e-mail rsvn@boracayregency.com or visit www.boracayregency.com.

La Monet Hotel Baguio offers 40% special value package

MAGUIC CITY is newly opened La Monet Hotel, located beside Camp John Hay, joins the "Sea to the North" travel trade fair to be held at Robinson's Manila on July 13, 14 and 15. La Monet Hotel will be offering a 40 percent off special value package for travelers who will attend the Fair City of Pines between June 15 to Nov. 15. Promo is available only on the basis per room. La Monet Hotel is categorized as a "boutique" hotel and is accredited with 40 hotel rooms under the first class category. It has 4th deluxe rooms and five junior suites, a gourmet restaurant called "Death Gourmet," and a bar and restaurant called "Matt Room." The hotel facilities include a gym, spa, and a business center. For more details, call (074) 661-0301 to 08 or (0917) 526-7848. You can also visit the hotel's Facebook page.

Pinoy beer mates at Dencio's

9:45 AM! A place to unwind and enjoy the company of friends and barkada is classic! At last, it is going easy on the budget for any order of Pinoy Beer Mates (two bottles) of beer. Choose from any of the Pinoy Beer Mates, the new line-up of appetizing pulutan, which serve as a perfect partner to an ice-cold beer. Enjoy affordable pulutan dishes with your barkada during birthday celebrations or during relaxing times, a night out of beer with friends and co-workers after a stressful day at work. Part of the Pinoy Beer Mates is the Spiced Pork Bahogit. Dencio's version of Sri Lankan pig's ears, deep fried to make it extra crispy. You can also choose a plate of Barbecue ribs, chicken tails grilled to perfection, or the Crispy Chicken Skin, perfect finger foods with your best buddies, deep fried for that crunchy texture. Enjoy the right and savory combination as you take a spoonful of Sizzling Atay and Balun-balunan, stewed in a special sauce that makes those chicken liver and gizzard parts more delectable and delicious. Or choose the Dencio's version of that famous street food favorite, quail eggs dipped in orange batter and fried with a right crisp. Give in to the craving that is Chicken Isaw Sisig; spicy chicken intestines with a dash of chopped green peppers. Street food never tasted this good! Order any of these Pinoy Beer Mates with a bucket of any ice-cold San Miguel Beers—Pale Pilsen, San Mig Light, Strong Ice, Super Dry and Red Horse for only P100. At Dencio's Grill, beer and pulutan pairs the fun in the relaxation!

July special promotions at Century Park

CENTURY Tsukiji Japanese restaurant, recognized by the Make Guide as one of Manila's finest restaurants of 2011-2012, gives a great deal until Aug. 31 with its Manila Makisan set menu. For only P888 net per order, enjoy a wonderful set meal starting off with Kamotenpura salad (vegetable sticks, cucumber, and lettuce tossed with Japanese mayonnaise topped with fish roe) and Magoro Takaki Tsukasadon Mahoroni (pan seared tuna with black pepper served with ponzu sauce). For a warm-up treat, Edamame (clear soup) is a favorite. Gotei Gyunike Maki (Japanese beefstick with rolled beef on teriyaki sauce) is surely a distinct kind of appetizer experience. Ayuyke Yaki (salted grilled sweet fish) and Sanma Kabayakidon (seasoned rice topped with pan fried pacific saury) are the Japanese chef's perfect picks for the main course. And Ichiba, Mizuyaki (fresh fruits) gives one a healthy, pleasurable dessert. Century Tsukiji is open daily for lunch and dinner. For reservations or inquiries, please call 556-5000 or e-mail tsukiji@centurypark.com.ph.

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LANCASTER Hotel Manila's "Rainy Daze" package offers a shower of treats like buffet breakfast for two, free movie tickets for two at The Podium, free declared, executive umbrellas, complimentary Internet connection and complimentary shuttle service to Ortigas shopping malls. The pitter patter of special gifts also await, courtesy of Bellagio, plus 15 percent off on all food and beverages at the Royal Lancaster. Simply book until Sept. 30 at the rate of P3,500/per night. Lancaster Hotel Manila is conveniently located at Shaw Blvd. in Mandaluyong City, a few hundred meters away from the busy intersection of Ortigas along EDSA. This "Rainy Daze" package rate is inclusive of service charge and applicable government taxes. Price/reservation is on a spread until subject to space availability. For more reservations, call 632- 9818, fax 632-1-9836, or log on to www.lancasterhotels.com.ph or e-mail reservations@lancasterhotels.com.ph.

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It's more fun in the water in Cam Norte

From surfing and kiteboarding spots to deserted beaches and clear waterfalls, there are lots of places to cool down in this Bicol destination

Text and photos by Kara Samson
Contributor

AS THE SUMMER heat sizzles in Manila, everyone's thoughts turn to staycations—beaches, rivers, waterfalls, resorts, swimming pools, and just about any body of water to cool down.

The province of Camarines Norte in the Bicol region, roughly eight to nine hours by land from Manila, is rising as one of the big new destinations for beach-goers and weekend warriors. If you're heading that way here are a few water-based activities that you can jump right into this summer.

1. Camp out on Calaguas Islands.

With its beaches of powdery white sand, azure blue waters and postcard-perfect surroundings, few have Calaguas without having sojourned. If you want a real island escape, head to Mambalung Balangiga (Long Beach). It's reachable by a two-hour boat ride from the port of Parasole or Vinzons, and the thrill is in the back-to-basics adventure, camping an overnight under the stars in tents, and dining on freshly caught seafood. The ideal time to visit is between the months of February and September, when the waves are not too rough.

2. Get stoked on Bagasbas Beach.

Bagasbas Beach has a long and wide expanse of gray sand and soft sandy seabed, generally uncrowded shores, and consistent waves that roll in from the Pacific Ocean, making it an ideal surfing spot for beginners and experts alike. The province hosts an annual Summer Surf Festival, where visitors can take lessons during a surfing clinic and enjoy other activities like beach volleyball, surf-climbing, Ekiden and dodgeball along Bagasbas Beach to Dart Head to Bagasbas Lighthouse for a hearty meal after your surfing session.

3. Go fly a kite on the waves.

Kiteboarding or kitesurfing is a surface watersport that harnesses the power of the wind to propel a rider across the water on a small surfboard or kiteboard (similar to a wake board). Establishments along Bagasbas Beach offer kiteboarding lessons and rent out gear. However, because of its extreme nature, this sport is best left to expert surfers or windsurfers. Extreme kiteboarders prefer the northeast monsoon season from November to March, when the waves are rough, though novice kiteboarders can still be seen flying on the water during summer.

Rivers and creeks

4. Take a dip in Mulsiap Pit cataracts.

Camarines Norte has a number of waterfalls, clear rivers and creeks that offer secluded spots to cool down in. Nature lovers can enjoy adventure-filled hikes to several waterfalls in the province. One of the most accessible is Mulsiap Waterfalls in the town of Labo, a short hike (roughly 500 meters) away from the main road and Mulsiap Bridge. The multi-level cascades have provided locals and tourists with a natural swimming spot. On any given weekend, you can join locals picnicking and cooling down at the basin of the falls and watch the kids jumping off the rocks into the deeper parts of the water.

5. Kayak against the waves in Barlam Beach.

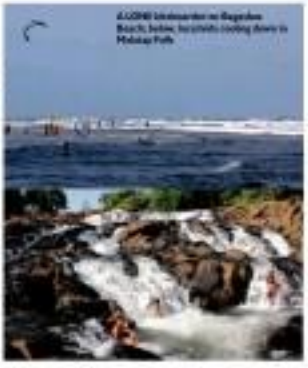
While normal kayaking on calm waters and streams can be relaxing, surfing against the waves offers a more thrilling experience. Kayak surfing (also known as surf kayaking) is surfing the ocean waves aboard kayaks while using paddles to maneuver the watercraft. Because of its shallow and soft seabed, good wind conditions and strong currents, Barlam Beach in the Mercedes group of islands in Camarines Norte is ideal for this water sport. Kayakers will have to paddle straight out to sea against the oncoming waves, turn the kayak around, and then try to catch a big wave to ride all the way to the shore. Kayak surfing lessons and kayak rental costs P200 per hour.

6. Get a hydromassage in Maniguong River.

Located in the town of San Lorenzo Ruiz, the rocky riverbed and clean waters of Maniguong River offer a relaxing alternative to beaches and pools. The river is a popular spot for picnics and summer outings. Locals bring packed food or meals and cheer down at the spa huts for rent on the shores of the riverbed before cooling down for a dip in the river amidst lush, natural surroundings. For an entrance fee of only P5 per person and a parking fee of P15-30 (vans higher), visitors can enjoy a natural hydromassage from the river's cascades.

7. Relax at Pineapple Island Resort.

For those looking for a fun resort experience with all the creature comforts and amenities close by, Pineapple Island Resort in the town of Calaguas, Daet, is the ideal spot. The resort has a huge 720-square meter swimming pool with water slides and a 200-square meter kiddie pool with a turtle slide and play station for kids. The resort also has a guesthouse, butterfly garden, bamboo huts, various fishing activities, and a relaxing, cool ambiance that's perfect for those who want to stay overnight. The resort's in-house restaurant Chef Mama serves delicious dishes including pinoybang ube-bits, crispy ube tarts, and delicious chocolate cake—a perfect snack after an afternoon of splashing around in the pool.



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Dolphy's legacy of laughter

By Nestor U. Torre

COMEDY KING Dolphy fought the good fight to recover his many illnesses last month but, just as it appeared that he was on his way to recovery, he expired shortly before his 84th birthday. He left not just his loved ones, but the entire nation in a state of mourned bereavement, and he will be sorely missed.

Now that he's passed away, we who mourn his loss should honor him in various ways. Today, our way is to share our thoughts on why Dolphy was so special and why he was so universally loved.

THE KING Comic clone roles that projected him as the local movie scene's Everyman.

Rare combination

It isn't just because he was a funnyman—after all, many popular comedians have left us without creating such grief in our wake, it's due to his rare combination of personal and professional qualities, never before distilled and instilled in a single performing artist.

First, the professional aspect of Dolphy's career: see and fly biography: He did many things in the course of his career, but consistently about roles that projected him as the loud movie screen's Everyman.

Thus, he "represented" the "ordinary" viewers watching and fully empathizing with him in the dark. In effect, therefore, he forged a personal bond with his viewers, who loved, loved, laughed and cried along with the characters he portrayed.

Next, he made sure, in his choice of roles, to play a wide range of people, so predictably, unlikely and boredom-wouldn't-quickly his performances, and his hold on viewers.

Yes, his gay characters were among his most popular characters, but he also portrayed the quintessential Filipino Everyman, John Pretentious...and a veritable gamut of other types—the Pinoy version of James Bond, spoofs of cowboys, a gender-bending nurse, and lowbrow takes on foreign film hits, trendy TV commercials, popular songs—etc.

Dolphy reigned as the nation's King Comic for many decades because he had his ear on the ground and his finger on the pulse of viewers' changing interests and fads. To him, the worst sin a performer could commit was to rest on his laurels.

That's why he was loved, not just by loyal celebrators, but by successive generations of viewers. Yes, he was old, but certainly not over the hill, because even young people could relate to his jokes—because he made it a point to relate to them.

An added "bonus" is the fact that Dolphy was famous for his, ah, subversion of beautiful women. Not drop-dead handsome himself, he "won" some of the loveliest ladies on the silver screen—and gave the "ordinary" guys in the audience yet another fantasy made flesh to vicariously empathize with!

...Imagine, the movies' most colorful and psychedelic portrayers of flaming habits was in fact a habitué of "deadly" vapors and substances? Amazing.

On Dolphy's appeal as a person rather than a performer, what stood out was his genuine humility. He performed not to boost his stock as a star, but to make his viewers happy.

Aside from his performances, he was also insanely generous, making a point of sharing his "blessings" and "paying it forward" to help a number of beneficiaries. Some observers say that he was sometimes too generous, spoiling some recipients of his bounty in the process, but you personally wouldn't fault the man for his innate impulse to help and share.

All of these diverse qualities and impulses made Dolphy Dolphy, hence the love and bereavement currently being expressed by a grieving nation.

—When comes such another?

NOW SHOWING

Family comes first for 'Ice Age 4's' furry protagonists

By Rito P. Asilo

THE FOURTH installment of the "Ice Age" film franchise doesn't veer too far away from the formula that has kept the animated series afloat since 2002—but, "Continental Drift" creates a diverting twist on its successful formula that allows its dysfunctional protagonists to avoid the tedium of retelling exactly the same story.

This time, to his unrewarding hunt for the elusive acorn, the saber-toothed squirrel, Scrat, is responsible for woolly mammoth Manny (Ray Romano), saber-toothed cat Diego (Denis Leary) and arboreal sloth Sid's (John Leguizamo) latest adventure—when the squirrel triggers the breakup of the Pangaea land mass into the continents as we know them today!

Soon, other Manny figures in a huge fight with his rebellious 20-year-old daughter Peaches (Keke Palmer), he is separated by the breakup of the continent from his daughter and wife, Ellie (Queen Latifah), and gets stuck on a drifting ice raft with Diego, Sid, and his 80-year-old Dinking, who isn't as senile as she initially appears.

The quartet is then captured by a band of mutinous pirates led by the giant ape, Captain Gutt (Peter Dinklage), and his sabre-toothed cat assistant, Shira (Jennifer Lopez), who take offense when Manny refuses to join them.

DIVERTING twist for animated franchise's dysfunctional family.

As the embattled friends find their way back to their families, they encounter narwhals (unrelated urbanites), enchanting sea sirens (who have difficulty and strangers alike in order to eat them), a humongous opera whale, and gentle, chipmunk-like hyraxes...who end up helping Manny and his friends battle Gutt and his monster underlings!

Meanwhile, Scrat ends up on Australasia, a floating island filled with other saber-toothed squirrels and nuts—but, his excitement gets the better of him when he...well, watch the movie!

As far as animated features go, we've had it up to here with redundant stories about anthropomorphic protagonists interacting—and occasionally—because of the spirited performances of its voice cast, as well as its stirring thematic focus on loyalty and the indispensability of family!

Moreover, "Ice Age" manages to keep its prehistoric protagonists interesting—and endearing—because of the spirited performances of its voice cast, as well as its stirring thematic focus on loyalty and the indispensability of family!

Pinoy sensibility

But, 2010 Century Fox's "Ice Age" franchise evolves with its sequels—and its humor has a distinct Pinoy taste and sensibility. Example: Pilosos Diego starts falling for Shira but refuses to acknowledge it, somebody suggests that the latter cat just might be "infected" with something that starts with the letter L. So, Sid ventures a guess: "Leprosy?" No, it's a case before word that rock with E. Sid tries again: "Lice?"—Get the picture?

Moreover, "Ice Age" manages to keep its prehistoric protagonists interesting—and endearing—because of the spirited performances of its voice cast, as well as its stirring thematic focus on loyalty and the indispensability of family!

Cynthia Alexander moves to Seattle

By Hentai Tarre

CYNTHIA ALEXANDER has left the building—for now, anyway, after holding court up Inverell's esoteric dubbed the 'Road of Solace' across the metric in the second half of June. The singer-songwriter is now in Seattle, her new home base.

It's not a bad place to be for a musician—this is where Nirvana and Pearl Jam first made it big. After all—it's just find it's second 11,000 kilometers away from Manchester Bridge. So yeah, you won't be able to catch her at Conspiracy Garden Cafe anytime soon, or at "It's Damn cold any of the other venues that's been performing in semipopular by the past 10 years or so.

Alexander has said something along the lines of that not being a permanent goodbye—but, her departure casts a melancholic pall over the intimate sphere even so.

It feels like the end of an era, which many will probably say has long ended anyway, where indie could still pleasantly surprise you by playing a fresh, original sound. Seem hand-wide, and where kids who were being "into" were listening to music by artists like Faithful, Alexander, or her big brother, Amy Sky-ski.

Debut album

A virtuoso musician and a gift of songwriter, Alexander has been a mainstay of the Plaza in the mid-to-late 90s before the inevitable lobster must anyone else was, in fact! Her debut album, "Invisible & Other Lullabies" (1997), is the only album of hers that's been released under a major label. All the others that followed—2000's "Skipping Stones," 2005's "Cruise Tail," and 2009's "Walk Down the Road"—have been independent releases.

A Cynthia Alexander performance is powerful yet intimate. Listening to her songs is like having a conversation with a very good, very wise friend who has a colorful turn of phrase. In the days when radio still played music, you'd hear her every now and then on the radio and hey—it's my constant to on the move.

Despite her cool being mainly mainstream, it's not surprising that she has built a loyal fan base over the years—every single, album of which seemed to be present at her send-off concerts, if the crowds at the various events are indication.

Prerogatives are not unusual among artists who are constantly exploring their boundaries, but it's hard for a loyal audience to say goodbye nonetheless.

Alexander has mentioned that her migration to the States doesn't mean that she's going to be gone from our shores forever. There's hoping that she may concert; the fields where she comes back here will be just as well-attended!

ALEXANDER, bon goodbye—for now

Michelle Obama promotes healthy lifestyle

MICHELLE OBAMA has written her first book, "American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America," in which she shares recipes, as well as stories about gardening.

The First Lady of the United States of America discloses that she grew up with little knowledge about vegetable gardening, or any point, she thought that tomatoes came in green plastic trays from supermarkets and had only one color—pale red! Now, she's doing her best to help educate everyone about growing "good food" and eating wisely.

The White House kitchen garden has evolved from a symbolic, decorative space to a major producer of ingredients used by events at the White House, where kitchen garden-sourced foods fascinate people.

Obama points out that the US spends $150 billion a year to deal with the citizens' already-related, health problems. Because of this, she has launched a campaign against childhood obesity—which, she says, is "unnecessarily solvable."

Steps she undertook to improve her family's eating habits: She swapped the pantry of unhealthy food, several more water or skim milk, instead of sugary drinks; added more vegetables to their meals, and encouraged the family to eat at home more frequently. She also encourages people to grow their own food, even if it's just a few herbs in pots.

OBAMA: Tips on growing "good food" and eating wisely.

Many children suffer from obesity, diabetes, and obesity because their parents don't provide a healthy diet for them! Obama's book helps show the way to a healthier lifestyle.

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and Y. Bernard

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: ICE AGE 4 (3D)
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: ICE AGE 4
4: THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN
5: THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN
6: MAGIC MIKE
7: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER

GREENBELT 3

1: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER

GREENBELT 5

1: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
2: ICE AGE 4 (3D)
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
4: ICE AGE 4 (3D)
5: MAGIC MIKE

AMAIMING TOWN CENTER

1: MAGIC MIKE
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
5: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER

ALABANG CENTER CEBU

1: MAGIC MIKE (3D)
2: ICE AGE 4
3: ICE AGE 4 (3D) | ABRAHAM LINCOLN
4: THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN

MARQUEE

1: ICE AGE 4
2: ICE AGE 4 (3D) | ABRAHAM LINCOLN
3: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
4: MAGIC MIKE

AMARITH MARITIT

1: ICE AGE 4 (3D)
2: ICE AGE 4
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
4: MAGIC MIKE (3D)
5: ICE AGE 4
6: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: ICE AGE 4
2: ICE AGE 4
3: ICE AGE 4 (3D)
4: MAGIC MIKE (3D)
5: ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER
6: ICE AGE 4
7: THE AMAZING SPIDERMAN

MEGA FOLK

1: ICE AGE 4 (3D) | ABRAHAM LINCOLN
2: MAGIC MIKE (3D)
3: ICE AGE 4
4: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (3D)

MARIKINA POINTE

1: ICE AGE 4
2: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN | ICE AGE 4 (3D)
4: MAGIC MIKE (3D)

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Main Lobby
July 14: Japan Fashion Expo

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Atrium
July 13 & 14: Children's Film Festival

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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July 13 & 14: Children's Film Festival

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Atrium
July 13 & 14: Children's Film Festival

SUPER STORE CEBU
Ayala Center Cebu
July 13 & 14: Children's Film Festival

SUPERMARKET
Ayala Center Cebu
July 13 & 14: Children's Film Festival

TRINOMA
Trinoma
July 13 & 14: Children's Film Festival

MARQUEE
Marquee Mall
July 13 & 14: Children's Film Festival

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Abreeza Mall
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PhilPOP marks the beginning of a new era for OPM

The first ever Philippine Popular Music Festival (PhilPOP) will have its grand finale tonight, July 14, 2012 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC).

The final performance and competition night will showcase the top 14 finalists selected from almost 3,000 entries. A star-studded line-up of guest performers will also grace the historic event to pay tribute to OPM.

"I am privileged to be part of the PhilPOP MusicFest Foundation, an undertaking which seeks to honor Filipino composers and their music. Our mission is to enrich our culture and reach out to the Filipino soul as expressed through the lyrics and melodies created for this and future generations to draw inspiration from and enjoy," PhilPOP MusicFest Foundation president Ricky Vargas said. He added, "It is our hope that through events such as this, our local music industry can receive the boost that it sorely needs to get fully revitalized. We owe it to our talented countrymen to provide them with this venue for a better appreciation of their craft."

Meanwhile, PhilPOP executive director Ryan Cayabyab is optimistic that the "diverse collection of melodies and lyrics" from the final 14 songs will "contribute to the growth and expansion of the Philippine music industry".

"The music maestro affectionately known in the industry as Mr. C also shared future PhilPOP initiatives for aspiring songwriters and musicians. "In the pipeline are collaborations with the Department of Education for songwriting workshops that will also cover the fundamentals of music theory and appreciation. Exciting days lie ahead for the Foundation as we bring PhilPOP to young people nationwide," he shared.

Tonight, one finalist will go home with P1 million in cash and the glory of being the first PhilPOP grand champion. Two runners-up will each receive P500,000 and P250,000 respectively. A Smart People's Choice Award will also be awarded to the most popular entry as decided by text votes.

For his part, business icon and PhilPOP chairman Manny Pangilinan who is also a staunch supporter of OPM said, "We're happy to have been given a role that could very well launch the career of a promising composer, and produce another unforgettable Filipino melody. We hope that you enjoy listening to the top 14 songs just as much as we enjoyed bringing their composers to the spotlight they all deserve. Kay ganda ng ating musika!"

PhilPOP is presented by Maynilad and Smart and it is co-presented by Meralco, PLDT, Resorts World Manila and TV5. It is sponsored by Metro Pacific Investments Corporation, NLEX, PICC and Sun Cellular as well as by the First Pacific Leadership Academy, KBP, Philex, Via Mare and media partners Inquirer, Ivory Records, Philippine Star, Radio Veritas and Radio Republic. PhilPOP is a project of the PhilPop MusicFest Foundation.

Astute casting choices boost 'Abraham Lincoln'

By Nestor U. Torre

THE CURIOUS? Film, "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter," is an instructive example of the creative twists and thumpish relish with which some cinematic artists tweak old themes and even historical figures and make them fresh and feisty again for a new generation of viewers.

This tour around, even the ensemble buzzes 'O, president, Abraham Lincoln, isn't spared. The oddly inventive film soon figures him, not just as a lover of slaves, but also as—the vampire nation's most implacable foe!

What's the big hoot? It's the movie's acknowledging the fact that vampire flicks are currently less this season...but, instead of coming up with another predictable bloodfest about pale vamps with pungent breath, pointy teeth, et cetera, the hit brood on its pointy head with a

baby-of a historical conceit. Way back on his childhood, Uncle Abe's mother was sucked dry and killed by a vampire, so the future president trained himself to become a vampire exterminator on the prowl.

In fact, Lincoln (played in adulthood by Benjamin Walker) tells so many of the decidedly curious tall-tale stories after that you wonder how he ever found the time to fight a civil war and govern a nation!

History

Why do some filmmakers tweak facts and history into such a fiction format? Precisely because they can. It's never been done before, they have a great time figuring out how to make their unconventional fiction fit the historical facts, the online vampire film urban gets drawn fully attended to details—and the primitive protraction is such a novel departure from the ordinary (had it such up at a cheapie hit!—You can't get any plotline than that.

To be sure, the film does run the risk of being such a dark and sweet fare that it ends up exploring itself into insanity. But one thing, the vampire nonsense lines have not to be repetitive and trite—once you've seen them or less, you've seen them all! So, what can the film do for an encore?

The production does better when it comes to skill and production casting: its choice of evocative newcomer Walker to play Lincoln is inspired, because the actor perfectly captures the future president's gangly ease, thicko persona first, when he wasn't vampire slaying, effectively morphs into a period action hero, and burns up the screen with his exciting feats of incredible derring-do.

The movie's other casting choices are similarly astute: with Mary Elizabeth Winstead turning her own therapic home into Lincoln's emotionally troubled wife, Mary, and Rufus Sewell as Henry Sturges confidently drawn as abe's mentor (who later turns out to be harboring a dark secret of his own).

Visual effects

Also on the up-and-up is the film's use of the latest wizard effects, which give the period production an occasionally contemporary feel—and flash—that makes it less of a dusty, musty affair for younger viewers.

Come to think of it, the movie's best assurance in this regard is the fact that it has its tongue firmly in cheek. While it treats its historical sequences "seriously," its intention to spoof the vampire trend "to death" is constantly clear—and outrageous.

Factor, vampire movies are so tested that they're practically begging to be made campy fun at as just in-jokes like "Twilight, Your Teeth Are In My Neck" and—unexpectedly done—Scott Speedman's "Underworld." Even the solid "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" is the howling, growling kind.

FANS' DAY

Jericho Rosales' masterful portrayal lauded

ROSALES. Depth of character.

By Andy Bais

DONELYN PAGMES, student: "Time TV comes first, but tonight my attention is TVH's 'Sweetheart Battle.'" It is hosted by Carlos Celdran and features the battles of the sweets and other pieces in Metro Manila.

"Recently it featured Anne Bridge, and I thought it was presented in an interesting manner. The show is fast-paced, and beautiful hosts with stunning costumes and cartoonish graphics that blend well with the host's narration."

Catherine Margarejos, homemaker: "When we were kids, we always looked forward to watching John and Marsha [in some of our eyes, unrelenting, funny lovable actor-actress] Dolphy! Thank you for bringing laughter and love into our homes!"

Other votes:

Maria Graziado, mass communications professor: "Bong Mo? Ervin Mo? is about many things—not the least of which is the distinction put of a person's moral fiber due to tenderness when he works abroad. At the center of this inference is faith and how it contributes to optimism in the form of those who are there, and the healthier faith behind. John Carmel and Hanna Magdalene were in commendable positive nuances.

"It was also done so artistically by Jericho Rosales in 'Bahid sa Dog-dog.' He had a depth of character that was truly enlightening. His mastery of his self-contributed unfortunately to the actress's meeting ending."

Wardrobe

Rene Jarillo, photographer: "Is it just me who finds Cherie 'grandstanding' on ABS-CBN's 'Kwento Philippines'? I'm not sure what's going on in her mind. From her wardrobe, her looks, and all she may to conveying her comments, nothing has been in the right place since the show's first telecast.

"In also doing this because the thinks she's bigger than the other three judges, due to her international success? They too have achieved a lot here and abroad, but they show mutual respect and never attempt to get the better of each other to prove their superiority."

E-mail: bais.andy@yahoo.com

Magazine's 'voyage' begins

STREET SMART
Mandy Navarrete

ALEXIUS OCA is now going to be publishing an Seafarer Asia, a glossy magazine that features seafarers' exciting stories (like "Tales from the Sea," about seamen held captive by pirates), health issues, safety tips, and other relevant information. The current issue features Alfredo Benitez and his career, as well as expert updates, edited by Bill Mijares.

Mariton believes that "seafarers" lives are the epitome of hard work, perseverance and commitment. Their families are their support system, helping them take stock of who they are, where they began, and how far they can go."

Services

The magazine mirrors Mariton's haven and the journey she wishes to take, being the daughter of a seaman, Capt. Eugenio Oca, who put up the deceased Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (Amosup).

Publishers hope offers a venue for the people in the maritime community to get to know one another better. To subscribe, e-mail <subscriptions@mariton-en.net>, or call 526-1013.

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With 'Looking,' Usher is in strong form

USHER. His latest album is a multigenre's effort.

IN THE last decade, Usher, along with Justin Timberlake and Beyoncé, was part of an elite group of pop acts who returned. Back-to-back albums that were epic and innovative.

He himself has five multimillion-selling with "8701," an album full of R&B gems that became enduring staples. Though it's nearly impossible to follow an album like that with something better, he did with "Confessions." The 2004 blockbuster was his superior-making album that still ranks as one of the top 20 best-selling discs ever.

Singles

Three days, Usher still rocks up hit singles ("OMG," "Love In This Club"), but he hasn't produced an album as brilliant since. But, the underlining "Looking 4 Myself" is his best effort at making tuneful music following "Raise U Hand" and "Raymond v. Raymond," both heavy albums saved by a few standing songs.

Usher's "Looking" is a multigenre affair. There are mid-tempo grooves like "Show Me," as well as bedroom R&B ("Lime"), electronic trip-hop ("Lemme Love"), upbeat pop ("Dats") and electro-dance numbers ("Scream," "Numb," "Euphoria").

But, the best things in all-people approach doesn't always work: "Scream," the current single produced by Max Martin, is like everything else on his 40 tracks. Like many of Chris Brown's fuzz-flavored jams, this could easily be performed by another act. It's formless and generic—words normally not used to describe Usher's music.

Producers

Usher rounds better in "Numb" and "Euphoria," both written and produced by Swedish Mafia House and Max Martin, and produced by Swedish dance singer, Robyn. Still, these songs don't come close to "Nobi" or "Without You" (with David Guetta).

The producers on the album range from Pharrell to mid-nineties Jam, Armando Perry, the mastermind of behind much of "8701" and "Confessions," is missing.

Overall, "Looking" is a hit. The Sibi track, which features links Stede of Empire of the Sun, is amazing. Rick Ross adds to the greatness of "Lemme See," and "Lessons for the Lovers" is Usher's strong R&B like it should be done!

MP

PBO marks Sarah . . .

From page 6A

times at 7 p.m. Call 570-7777.

Philpop at PICC tonight

Tonight at the PICC, Ryan Cayabyab will lead the performances of 14 new OPM songs via Philpop, a songwriting talk that hopes to jumpstart the next Golden Age of OPM. The 14 finalists were chosen out of more than 3,000 entries.

Apple launches iTunes store

Subscribers of wireless telecom Smart Communications, using their iPhone or iPad, now have access to millions of songs and movies, as Apple recently announced the launch of its iTunes store in the Philippines.

Using iTunes, Smart subscribers can choose from over 20 million songs, including hits by Filipino artists. The iTunes app is available as a free download from apple.com/ios/itunes, and comes preloaded on every Apple device.

CAMARUM. Presents songwriting tilt's tribulation.

Movies on TV

Today on HBO at 12:30 p.m., "The King's Speech." July 15 at 10:30 a.m., "The Last Airbender." July 16 at 8 a.m., "Scent of a Woman." July 17 at 10 p.m., "Switchmas." July 18 at 12 noon, "Bloodsport 3: Unfinished Business." July 19 at 12 noon, "The Jewel Network." July 20 at 9 a.m., "An Officer and A Gentleman."

'Guiliana and Bill' shows viewers . . .

From page 9A

1995), the finale) got pregnant—but she would have a miscarriage a few months later!

Then, Guiliana and Bill had to—don't roll the clock of bouncing that she had breast cancer, and deciding that she undergo lumpectomy, than a double mastectomy.

As if those were not enough, her doctor told them she could not get pregnant for five years because of her cancer, so they were advised to secure to what they called "a predetermined cocktail"—a woman who would conceive for Guiliana and Bill, bearing her egg and his sperm, also in vitro and carrying it to full term!

Meaningful conversations

The nicest thing about Guiliana and Bill is their effort not to sing each other. But rather to patiently listen to what the other has to say—and find balance in everything they do.

Sure, they argue and disagree over petty and big things. But, they know how to get themselves back to mature, light and dignified conversation, keeping their emotions in check—and their voices down.

Guiliana says: "While we cannot control what life brings us, we can control how we react." Bill, on other hand, shares, "Life's experiences make us who we are—accept, celebrate and use this to create the world you deserve!"

"Guiliana & Bill" is a voice in the wilderness saying not that marriage is for keeps—even in rough times.

"THE SOCIAL NETWORK." Will be shown on HBO.

Joey Reyes celebrates friendship in Cinemalaya entry

By Rica Arevalo

THE ATMOSPHERE brims with energy when director Joey Reyes hops talks about his Cinemalaya entry, "Mga Munumuhing Liham," his ninth film. He shoots, "You have to keep evolving. I don't believe in retirement; what I believe is in reinvention. People are telling me to stop, but I won't—I'll die if I did!"

Joey says that his new film is inspired by the death of his friend, Ben Escudero. "It's about losing a friend and exploring the idea that, even among your closest pals, there are still secrets you keep from one another that accumulate through the years. What if, in death, those secrets come out?"

What secrets tips to young directors (and actors) as we see in the entertainment industry? The filmmaker answers, "Do not take yourself too seriously. Don't believe in your press releases as to what the studio says about you. Keep in mind that you aren't good all the time—there's always something more to learn!

Passion

"Time changes, and you should change with them. If you want to be a filmmaker, it's not a job—it's a passion! It's not about money; it's about having something behind. Viewers don't remember TV directors...they remember television shows. But, in the movies, the film is the director. If you want to leave a legacy, dedicate yourself to filmmaking."

Ben, Reyes says, is working with Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal? He reflects, "Going to both to as friends, not so much the work that they gave me as conversations have with any encouragement to change role. It hurts me when young filmmakers (who don't look at their influences) say they were self-made! They're not—everyone has influences, even if they were books that already need to be put to death via euthanasia! I want to encourage them to be better than us."

Showing his first indie has been a fascinating experience for the veteran director. He explains, "Kasi, the filmmakers who come from commercial movies, are not the indie-ish techno enemies. We all want the same thing. Believe it or not, you're dripping sign because it's sweat—but, those from the mainstream choose to work within the system."

Experience

How has his Cinemalaya experience been for her? Reyes discloses, "It's so much fun—but, I'm also getting more shoots in! 'Mga Munumuhing Liham,' which premieres on July 20 at the CCP, is about friendship—and is also done out of friendship.

"My lead lead actresses—Judy Ann Santos, Jaime de Belen, Agot Isidro and Iza Calzado—weren't paid a single centavo! So there are stories. They did it out of love—for me and the project itself. They prove that commercial actors also aspire to do something out of the box!"

'Guiliana and Bill' shows viewers how to make a marriage work

By Lito Borlongan-Abrera

DESPITE HAVING lived a life of glamour, fame and fortune, handsome Hollywood couple Guiliana DeRossi and Bill Rancic have successfully dealt not only with the pressures of being in the limelight, but also with life's blessings like having come into our lives—she as your interviewer, you folks, "E! News" host and subject of "Fashion Police," and he as a successful businessman and motivational speaker.

Episodes

The new episodes of the 10th season of their hit reality TV series, "Guiliana & Bill," take viewers behind the scenes of their real-life marriage after their fairy tale wedding in Italy in 2005.

Next they search how they struggled to have a child, and running out of options, how they resorted to in vitro fertilization

Bright and breezy start for 'Be Careful With My Heart'

By Nestor U. Torre

MANY NEW telenovas want one with a big bang, then quickly deteriorate into predictability and confusion, as their initial focus and impetus are compromised by contrary inputs and afterthoughts. It's still early days, but we trust that "Be Careful with My Heart" will be able to resist and avoid that standard subplot, because its first telenovas last July 9 was a bright and breezy treat.

The new daytime drama series is about a hardworking young woman (Jodi Sta. Maria) who ends up wedding for a wealthy widower (Richard Yap)...and eventually becomes romantically involved with him. The "Stained: Perfect Mother" scenario is as old as the entertainment hills, but the latest take on it is believable perfumed, textured and directed, so hopes are high that it will be able to avoid many of the boring old clichés that have made it such a predictable loser in the past.

The new show is particularly fortunate to have Jodi and Aiza Seguerra in its cast. In its first telenovas, the two stars carried the show with great verve and feeling, and their "stars are" was quite fetching and endearing.

STA. MARIA AND SEGUERRA. Great verve and feeling.

Character

As for Richard Yap, his character figured only lightly and slightly in the series' initial outcast, but we expect good things from him, too, because he proved his thespic worth in "My Binondo Girl" two seasons ago.

Last July 9, however, it was Jodi and Aiza who registered most strongly in the show. Their characters were interesting on points of contrast, other with Aiza's "lumbay" characters, whose eyebrows overexpressively quite nicely with Jodi's true-blue, hardworking, family-broadwinner persona.

Also quite welcome was the added twist that Aiza was a virgin mother, having gotten pregnant one drunken night some years ago, despite her all-too-clear gender preference.

Despite the hardworking actors' best efforts, however, all of their ruthless and other resourceful schemes failed to enable their family to end up in the black...with one stroke of bad luck depleting their resources and Jodi had no choice but to go abroad to work.

Alas, even that heart-and-self-sacrificial decision turned out badly so she had no other option left to make money for her loved ones...until, at the end of the first telecast, the hard-character testers her life.

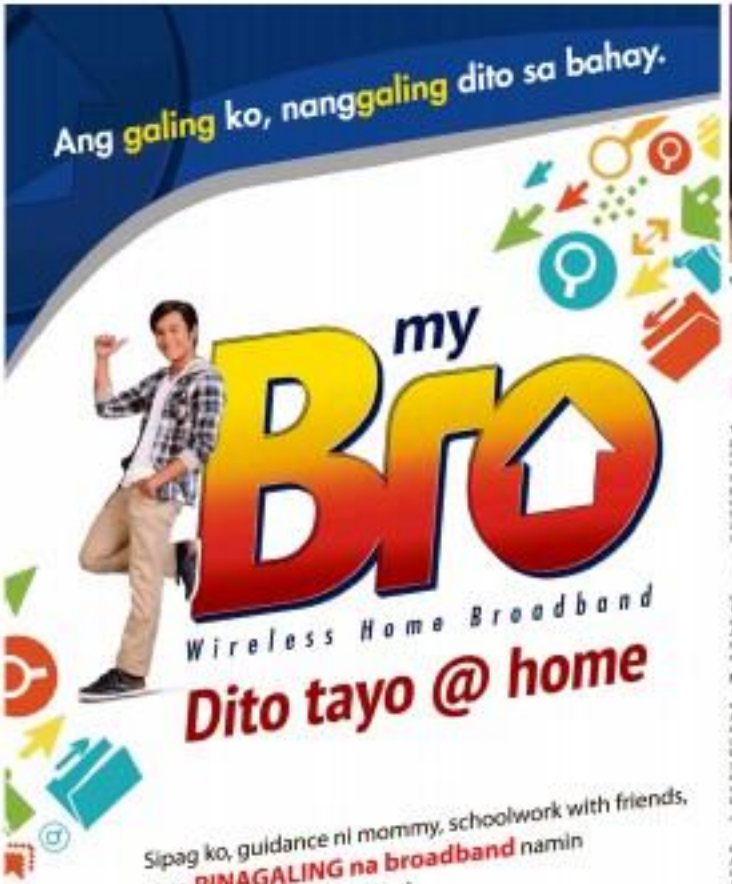
Employment agency

We surmise that, after seeing her ex-lover and distantly-other she found out that she had been "fleeced by her employment agency, she be offered her a minimum and rescued her young children to her care. We also guess that his current squeeze, shown briefly in the first telecast, wouldn't think that the alien was so great, and would make her jealous feelings known...and felt.

But, that's for succeeding episodes of the show to confirm and develop. For now, we're basking in the bright and breezy feeling that the new series has stirred in us, and hopefully in many other daytime televiewers, as well.

Yes, the show's opening scenes are unabashedly "fantasticating" and "unintentional," but its two female leads' portrayals effectively counteract that gummy, soapy tendency, and the verbs' swiping feels warm and true, drastically modulating the melodramatic than the show's telenovas.

Again, we pray that "Be Careful" takes great care not to disrupt its initial advantage, so it will remain a winsome winner in our book. From start to finish!



GERONIMO. Series of celebrations.

PBO marks Sarah G's birthday month

THE PBO movie channel celebrates the great success of birthday girl, Sarah Geronimo, everyday this month. At 11:20 p.m., "Popstar Diaries Rewind" showcases Sarah's chilly activities. Every Friday at 9:30 p.m., "Sarah on Stage" highlights her musical performances. On July 20, she performs in concert with Gary E. Al-Al debut Alec, Jaira Milby and Khali Bautista. On July 27, she defines "What Love Is" with Marvin Herrera.

MONTAGE Sunday nights at 9:30 p.m., hit host movies are showcased—like "You Changed My Life" on July 15 with Judee Lloyd Cruz and "Mahal Kita Beatriz" with Judy Ann Santos on July 22. And, on July 29 at 9:30 a.m., "Sarah GE. Cute" marks the start of an all-day birthday special! Visit viva.com.ph

New mobile game

Gameloft has launched the new Ferrari mobile game via Bus Cellular's Value-Added Service. Ferrari GT3: World Track, the third installment of the acclaimed Ferrari GT mobile game series, takes you to a higher level of style and speed...right at your fingertips. Race across 18 exclusive tracks from stunning locations all over the world! Visit http://c-wap.cmcellular.com.ph.

'The Greatest Hits'

Viva Concerts and Events presents "The Greatest Hits" at the Newport Performing Arts Theater of Resorts World Manila, starring Hugh Mapacles, Rhoda Marie Rivera and Raco J. Perez at 8 p.m. on Aug. 3.

One of the most successful and longest-running shows in local show biz, the production features popular ballads from the '70s and '80s performing their hit songs. Aside from performing solo numbers, the filmmakers duke out duets and trios to double- and triple-the fun! Call 908-8888, 687-7256 or 601-9999.

Speech Communications Workshop

The UP Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts is holding its Summer Speech Workshop for kids (7 to 12 years old), teens (13 to 17) and adults (basic and advanced level) every Saturday on July 28-Sept. 15.

Learn how to build self-confidence, handle stage fright, techniques in voice projection and diction, and public speaking from top UP professors. For details, call 924-2224.

Pastry sale

At Eastwood Richmonde Hotel's The Lounge, 6 p.m. signals not just the end of the work day but also the start of a delightful sale of its baked goodies and delicious sandwiches at 40 percent off, until closing.

SATURDAY Special

Charmers and sizzlers for Justin's 'beliebers'

By Rito F. Asilo

BELIEVE. Carefully calibrated pop sound.

MOST OF the tracks in Justin Bieber's latest album, "Believe," which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 three weeks ago, are garnished with hooks that are hard to resist, and melodies that show off Justin's maturing vocal chops...like the adolescent charmer "Boyfriend"... the percussion-heavy "Thrill," and the groovesome dance-floor ditty "Out of Town Girl."

Yes, he mostly tackles teenage love and devotion—but, that's all right. After all, the baby-faced heartthrob just turned 18 last March, so his followers won't expect him to tackle very adult themes and carry the problems of the world on his young, albeit influential shoulders.

Bieber doesn't mind imbibing his own problems, however. In the bonus track, "Maria," he salutes the paternity issue conscientiously hoofed at him, he sings, "She says she just ran on a train/ She won't leave me alone/ And she's dragging my name through the dirt/ That ain't my baby!" Then, he caps off his swinging reference to "Billie Jean" with an unexpected Michael Jackson like growl!

Samplings

To further appreciate his hormone-induced vocal evolution, check out the sweetly

(CONTINUED) H2

Vilma's golden years

By Nestor U. Torre

THE PRODUCERS of Vilma Santos' latest film, "The Healing," are making a big pronouncement over the fact that by acclaimed star is marking her 50th year in show business.

We thank them for the timely reminder, but we hope that the truly golden anniversary will be observed with many more celebrations in the months to come. Yes, we'll be making it a point to mark Vilma's new career when it opens on July 25—but, after that, what more should we be looking forward to?

The makers, Vilma's loyal fans and/or the Film Academy of the Philippines should whip up a major retrospective of Vilma's best film portrayals. Since she's known as the Star for All Seasons, the festival should be chronologically representative of her fascinating and colorful

(FROM H1)

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Channing Tatum revisits his stripper past

By Rito P. Bello

CHANNING TATUM'S road to Hollywood stardom has been long and tortuous. After getting cast as a dancer in Ricky Martin's "She Bangs" music video, the actor reinvented himself as a topnotch lead model, appearing in high-profile campaigns for Calvin Klein, Abercrombie & Fitch, and Dolce & Gabbana. But, Tatum feels that moviegoers can learn more from one of his past "odd jobs," when he was merely 19 years old—as an exotic dancer!

In "Magic Mike," director Steven Soderbergh (who's taken inspiration from Tatum's stories as a teenage stripper. The gritty drama follows Tatum's 30-year-old Mike (Tatum), who teaches him the tricks of the trade.

Impressionable newcomer

Mike knows his way around the busy-making business, because he is one of the top attractions of the striptease act managed by Dallas (Matthew McConaughey). But, with the quick buck and hard partying come other habit-forming activities—sex and drugs—that gets the impressionable newcomer, Adam (Alex Pettyfer), in trouble and prison. It doesn't take long before Adam's amoral friend's entices up with him and his doting sister, Brooke (Cody Horn).

Soderbergh allots viewers a disturbing all-too-brief opening peek into the lives of male strippers, who display more than just their chiselled pecs and abs to endless hair-tossing women. When the opportunities boldly westward into the promiscuous' back arena, it's hard not to feel bad about the achievable but unrealized ambitions they have given up on—especially Mike's dreams of designing and manufacturing furniture.

And to fulfill the physical requirements of the "ingenue" role he portrays, Ian locks the fire needed to ignite his supposed chemistry with Tatum's character (the two allegedly did not get along well on the film set—and it shows).

The film effectively taps into Brian's boundless unrequited dramatic potential, especially when his character realizes that he's reneged on his promise to take care of Brooke's younger brother. For his part, McConaughey delivers a scene-stealing portrayal that showcases his nuanced screen presence and charisma, which have lately been compromised by bad career choices!

Distraction

For local viewers, the biggest distraction when watching "Magic Mike" is in the way some of its "sensitive" scenes have been tailor-formedly "sanitized" to suit the hand-censor's knife—which is distressingly evident to anyone. If you're familiar with Soderbergh's oeuvre, you know that the award-winning director of "Traffic," "Sex, Lies and Videotape" and "Erin Brockovich" doesn't shoot stories that are unnecessary or gratuitous —Unless the public responsible for the movie's gratuitous nips and slips thought that the film they were viewing was a Disney/Ind drama about sex- and drug-addicted male strippers!

TATUM, MCCONAUGHEY AND PETTYFER. Parting ways dancing. Soderbergh's gritty drama.

THE ITAIN'st Success marks a major milestone.

Vilma's golden years

From page 00

performances throughout the half-decade she's been having the movie cameras. It a print is still extant, it should start with her first starring role as a child star in "Trudis Liit"), and include her first award-winning stellar portrayal in "Inang de Saeba").

Among her finest characterizations that should similarly be represented are "Nathalie," "Bakit Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay," "Inspirasyon," "Tagos ng Dugo," "Pagpag ng Uwak, Pag-ibig ng Ingak," "Ikaw, Ikaw, Ikaw Ka Gumawa!," "Tinkuda '70," "Anak," "Inspiracion," "I Heard it Also" (with Nora Aunor),...and, possibly her best portrayal of all, "Sister Stella L."

Aside from signaling the Vilma fanatic fervor could also celebrate the screen that has characterized her "golden" performing career—a representative two-flick, her "Darna" and "Darna" fanzys, her period musical with Joseph Estrada ("Ang Ekanos and I"), her FPJ-starrers ("Batas sa Bahaging"), etc.

Retrospective

Aside from the Vilma film fest, a similar retrospective could be mounted on television, especially by a movie channel. In addition, filmmakers should come up with a outline-noble book on their beloved star—she deserves nothing less.

What else? We'd love to see Vilma embarking a master class for actors, like the one Isabel Adzia did earlier this year for singers. While sharing the secrets, highlights and insights of her long new affair with performing, Vilma would be able to recall choice anecdotes and "secrets of the trade" that should make the long session a treasure trove of significant and eminently viewable events.

So, why don't her filmmakers produce and videotape the event in a lifetime shooting, bed it up with a lot of choice period vignettes and interviews with the star's colleagues, and air it as a TV special?

Or, as part of producing it, it should be noted that, as Vilma slides into her 50th year as a public figure, she's making a similar by big name for herself as a politician and public servant. Thus far, she's exercised her scope of political activity in local posts like mayor and governor, but her prospects don't stop there.

What's up next for everybody's Ate Vi? Higher political office—like senator or even VP? Whatever happens, we hope that, every couple of years or so, she will continue to gift us with another memorable screen performance, as further evidence her already exceptional filmography. She's simply too good a clear, pure to surrender completely to politics.

Charmers . . .

From page 00

collaboration of the jazz and R&B fusion, "Catching Feelings". On Maroon's like smugger of "Get In Your Arms," which includes properly stylized samplings of "Symbiotic Relationship" and "Can't Stop the Feeling" lyrics; he complex vocal stylings to "Tim Love", the sleek and sassy "Take You," and the Enjoy snapping, get-to-dive-in-romantic ode, "Be Alright."

Sucker's impressive list of collaborators lends diversity to his carefully calibrated pop sound: Lindsey Stirling on the swirly "All Around The World," Jo Ho Big Beat to "As Long As You Love Me," Drake in the stylish "Right Here," and Nicki Minaj to "Bonny And A Boat," which will keep his double-heroine fans screaming and swooning!

'Lorenzo's' . . .

From page 00

challenging role. When it comes to TV villainy there's just no reach that even the best actors can do, because there are restricting "conventions" and viewer expectations to confront to.

As for Carmina Villaroel, she appears to be almost as lonesome "unreactive love." Yes, the role requires somebody in her late 30s, but Carmina sometimes looks older and more pained than that. As, her courtship scenes with Zaijian lack the comedic vitality they need to delight viewers.

Overall, as it stung, we're glad that "Lorenzo's Time" is encouraging viewers to reconsider their ideas about age, youth and the flowing, flowing impermanence of existence. It reminds us that, for some people, life can be exceedingly short, so we should all "seize the day"—each and every day!

'Lorenzo's' dramatic musings proceed apace

JUAN NILLA. Serves as his TV series' unsung thespic fulcrum.

By Nestor U. Torre

All THE storytelling on "Lorenzo's Time" continues to unfold, we are heartened to note that its dramatic musings about time, age, youth, love and related topics are proceeding smart, hopefully to viewers' benefit.

"Carpe diem!" or "Seize the day!" appears to be the new series' rallying cry, as it determines its unusual story about a lass who ages (or fast rises in the case affliction known as progeria. Alarmed, his parents send him to suspended animation by means of cryogenics, hoping to "awaken" him after a cure shall have been found.

Well, the boy Dinjhan Incandila finally wakes up 50 years later—and after getting used to his new "environmental reality," he finds himself wise mended in many familial controversies over his parents' business empire, which is being run by his ostensibly loving but actually merciless aunt (Amy Austria). Things sometimes get so nasty and contentious that the 50-year-old boy could feel tempted to crawl back into his cryogenic cocoon again!

This past week, however, the series seems to be focusing on other, lighter and shallower concerns, sprinkling too much screen time on the boy-man's belated romantic pursuit of his boyhood love, played in adulthood by Carmina Villaroel. Our quarrel is not over the "logic" of the pursuit, after all, "Lorenzo" is supposed to be 20 years old—but with the extended time devoted to it.

The series hasn't been able to resist the temptation to play its "soundship" scenes but all of the earnestness and romantic ardor they're made to exude, after their initial "hot air" novelty have worn off. Yes, some of the figurative or pantomimic scenes are cute, but can we cut to the next plot point, please?

On pairs of roaming, Dinjhan continues to be the anchor strong (fireside) fulcrum—after all, he's the one who has been around the longest. So much a young performer. But, we must note (again) that his extensive time would stand improvement. In charity's sake. He needs to drop some syllables when he speaks, as with circumcision sounds. To give just one example, last Tuesday he said something like, "Sayot ko siyang impormasyon."

Less expressedly, we're glad that Amy Austria has come on board as the young protagonist's scheming aunt, because her style of assertiveness isn't over the top, as is usually the case with villanous villains, but more subtle and complex.

Mr. Uriel, however, that in her next TV assignment, Amy will be cast in a more

LORENZO'S | 10

Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman. . .

From page 04

wanted to know how difficult it was to get up once you're knighted...because he's got a bad knee. I measured him with, "It's all right because you kneel down on a wood and on the side, it has a bench so you can push yourself up."

Also, it was very funny, because with the film stars walking along the passage at the Buckingham Palace...as you go, all the little doors open, and the maids are going out and looking at you. The admiral says like, "Get in, get in!" with the stick. But...anyway, what was the question?

Have Sam Chisholm-Hale grown as an actor since you worked with him the first time?

MF: I've looked back at a lot of work that Christian did before I knew him as Bruce Wayne. I see that as accomplished from way back, and he's growing it over and over that he's tremendously gifted.

MC: He's got an Oscar now. I thought he was great in that picture ("The Fighter"). In this last movie, we had one or two dramatic scenes together. He was absolutely wonderful!

Early days

MF: I've watched Michael Caine from his early days. He hasn't grown as an actor.

MC: All I've grown is heavier.

What makes a good director? You both worked with the best of them.

MF: All good directors have a style for free-acting. That's how you get a good picture...through free acting.

MC: Yeah. I said to director John Huston once, "You never give me any direction! You never tell me anything." He said, "You get paid a great deal of money to do this. Michael, you don't need me to tell you what to do." Chris (Nolan) doesn't tell me anything. He lets you go until it's not what he wants. Then, he'll come up and whisper to you something that's very telling. 'You go, why didn't I think of that?' Chris isn't one of those guys going, "Oh, Michael, what are you doing?" You know, the kind who makes you look like the fool in front of everybody!

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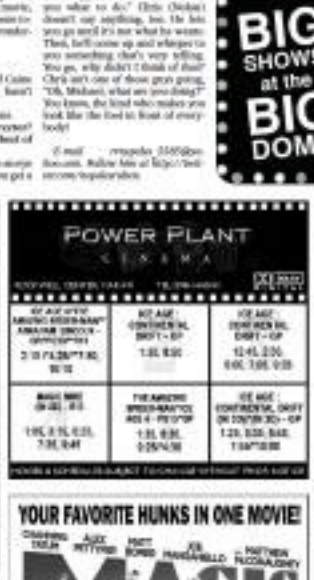

Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman: So much fun together

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—When Michael Caine and Morgan Freeman—also known as Alfred and Lucius, respectively, in "The Dark Knight" trilogy—were paired together in a recent interview it turned out to be a treat.

Michael, 79, and Morgan, 75, replied as with as many amusing anecdotes as their answers that they invariably asked, "What was the question?"

Eating chocolate candies at the beginning of our talk, the two esteemed actors, both Academy and Golden Globe winners, were fun together when you wanted to pull back?

Michael Caine (MC): I met of retired stars. I'll tell you why: I got a script, and I sent it back to the producer saying, "I don't want to do it—the part's too small." He sent it back with a letter saying, "I don't want you to read the lover part. I want you to read the father role." I realized that I had unexpectedly grown old.

Morgan Freeman (MF): Uh, expectedly I love that.

MC: Yeah, I went to the bathroom and I had a look in the mirror—and I thought the producer was right. I'm not the lover. I'm the father. But, I didn't do the picture, anyway, because I already had a bad fantasy with the producer pointing this out.

Gardening

How about retiring for good—have you considered that?

MC: I regard myself as retired. Not retended—retired. Some people regard me as retarded, as well. I regard myself as retired until someone makes me an offer I can't refuse. And that's not necessarily the money. I have to see the script. Like in these batman movies, if I'd been saying "Batman is retired" and all that, I wouldn't have done it! I just be there, watch television, do gardening, or play with my grandchildren. Then, suddenly a script comes and I go, "Oh shoot, I got to work now—I love this script! That's what happens to me. But, I regard myself as retired. I'm 79. In England, they just raised the age of retirement from 65 to 66.

MF: Holy cow.

MC: And everybody's going nuts. I'm going, what are they talking about?

MF: I don't talk about retirement. It isn't part of my lexicon. I don't know anything about it. I read scripts constantly. I'm the same as I was when I was 25. I'm desperately looking for something to do next. Why not? As long as someone can think of something for you to do, go do it.

High points

What do you consider are the high points in your life?

MC: Well, I got two Academy Awards—those were high points. I got a knighthood...that was another high point. You can't really do a lot better than that. I did, of course, do better than that because I got my three grandchildren in the end ...which is better than anything.

MF: May I ask a question? What are the criteria for knighthood? Could I possibly qualify?

MC: A foreigner can be an honorary knight. I'm a real knight—a really dark knight.

FREEMAN (LEFT) AND CAINE. Reunion in the final installment of Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy

When the Queen knighted me, she said to me, "I have a feeling you've been doing what you've been doing for a very long time." I was about to say the same thing to her.

But, it's very funny because you have your own adjutant who guides you through the palace. I had this guy who's about 6'4" tall. He guided me to the hall where the ceremony was going to be. He kept giving me instructions. "You will do this, you will do that." He said, "Then, the Queen will shake your hand, you will step back, turn right, and never speak again." He said, "Your time is over—the minute she shakes your hand."

MF: You know the worst I got? Edgar Green in "Dolu."

MC: Oh yeah—when the Queen shakes your hand, she does a funny little thing because she shakes your hand—then pushes it away in let you know you're gone. You'd think, "Oh, I'm her pet."

MF: I met the Queen once in Washington, DC. That handshake thing—she takes your hand and just pulls you past her.

MC: Yeah, that's if you're going the right way, she pushes but if because I had to go backwards. Another funny story connected with that is that I was talking to Charlie Watts of the Rolling Stones on Piccadilly by the phone once, I said, "You come on just a minute," and I talked and talked on the phone. Afterward, Charlie asked, "Who was that?" I said it was Roger Moore. Roger said he will be knighted, and he

PHOTOS, B3

DOLPHY. Takes his final bow

Accolade for the comedy king

By Rolen Cervantes

THE COUNTRY mourns the death of Philippine comedy king, Dolphy (Quinco, when all, he was "king" for decades. I wasn't really a fan, although I watched some of the master comedian's films. From being a dancer at Clover Theater, I admired his phenomenal answers to the top.

Dolphy endeared many stars and movie viewers. He remained popular no matter the political seasons. I didn't particularly like his brand of physical humor, because he kept outdoorsing (trademark) Broderick Pardan and Rotsilde Valdez were better in the comedians signature gender bender roles. I liked his dancing skills, though.

Counterparts

I didn't appreciate his obvious copy of Jerome Jerry Lewis, although it was a habit of local stars to ape Hollywood's best of the stars. He belonged in an era in Philippine entertainment when we had local counterparts of Fred Astaire, Elvis Presley, Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn and Audrey Hepburn.

Nationally, Dolphy had a great sidekick in Panchito. Alba, who was as rough as Dolphy was smooth. They were a touchy combination until the day they passed away.

The comedy king had charisma, and he was a well-known lover of many beautiful women, like Zsa Zsa Padilla, Alma Moreno, Lolita Rey and Pilar Pilapil.

I was most impressed by his answer when he was approached to run for a national political position: "Nanay Aang wanala ako?" Many movie actors run for elective positions when they begin losing their hold on the audience—and when they win, many of them don't answer to much as public servants.

Dolphy has left a rich legacy. So, I recommend that Malacañang establish a new award for entertainers to be called Bienbenido Award, which is national in scope but is not necessarily the coveted National Artist award.

The suggested accolade should recognize top entertainers who have created a niche for themselves based on popularity, box-office performance and audience appreciation, and can honor the acclaimed films of Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos, Eddie Garcia, Joseph Estrada —and Dolphy!

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UAAP Special SPORTS

Welcome to UAAP Season 75

UAAP 75: Where flight and bite collide

Ateneo leads title chase; NU could pull off shocker

By Jaemee N. Pejo and Rudolph B. Longson

IT'S REALLY an exercise in futility—this annual attempt to act on some sort of form guide for college basketball's most glamorous tournament.

And there is no positive proof than the straw vote among Inquirer's panel of long-headers last year, one which yielded just one correct prediction. Ateneo would win the title.

Because this is the UAAP. Nothing is ever set in stone in the frenetic world of varsity hoops. There are dynasties as much as there is beyond mortals. For once, you can never predict how an Ateneo-La Salle game will turn out, even if you think each team will player on the opposite end of the talent spectrum. Also, have you ever experienced losing UST as an underdog against any team—and then watch the Tigers hit every shot from beyond the arc?

And how does one accurately bobby Ray Parks? How does a guy who stands to contribute something as intangible as a "winning culture" serve as a measure of NU's chances?

Impossible.

Still, practically the same experts came back, pored on roster changes and drafted preseason tournaments carefully to conclusion yet another four guesses for honest-?!).

Here is how the consensus went:

1 ATENEO BLUE EAGLES

PERIMETER doesn't mean to him when a champion team sees its best players lose sooner to down.

Still, the odds-on favorite for the UAAP crown, the Ateneo Blue Eagles will again rely on a solid core led by Greg Slaughter to train but for a run. Bob Arnaiz coaching.

"Slaughter defensive has improved steadily because we're outlasting his talent a bit better than last year," Ateneo coach Norman Black said of his seven-foot ace. "A lot of players will get to learn the very well skilled Rabeh Al-Hussaini a few years ago. We expect him to have a productive year."

Of course, it's not just Slaughter's steady double-double performances that opposing teams have to worry about.

Likely picking up where they left off, Ateneo hopes may again come out as a potent scorer, and last year's top rookie Kiefer Ravena may just be as effective as he plays the point guard position more this season.

But the most intriguing part of Ateneo's case would be the comeback of Ryan Buencamino, the 2010 UAAP Finals MVP who skipped last season due to fitness issues, among others.

"We're so back in shape, he's down to 225 [to which is his playing weight. Finally," said Black. "We expect him to have a good year."

Tenten Gonzaga and Jerrel Tongson had respectable outings in the preseason in supporting Ravena in the backcourt, while JP Erram, Justin Chua and the returning Oping Bamaling give Slaughter ample help in the paint.

"We know it's going to be difficult," said Black, who hopes to steer the Blue Eagles to one more crown before returning to a pro league coach at the end of the season.

"We're trying to accomplish something that hasn't been done recently. But we'll still take the same, we'll still try to get out there and run, go inside-out to reach to possible and utilize the inside of Slaughter."

2 NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

AFTER an embarrassing championship romp in a preseason tournament, National University looks primed for the big time.

"We're one year mature," said Bulldogs coach Eric Altamirano. "Everybody has adjusted to the system. We're playing together. It seems each player has accepted and understood their roles in the team. We also added players to beef up, we're deepened my second unit."

And going by his summer outing, last year's MVP Bobby Ray Parks may just continue to wreak havoc on the competition after averaging 18.6 points per game in the preseason.

"Bobby Ray has really adjusted from last year," said Altamirano. "He has adjusted well with the physicality and with the responsibility we've put on him. He has accepted that challenge. Aside from being target to guy in scoring, he has added dimension to his game, like his defense and his leadership. That's a big thing for us."

Center-reserve Emmanuel Mbe will likely continue tugging at double-double, while Eric Alexis, Jireh Arellano and Jessie Millaber will probably play vital roles for the Bulldogs, spreading the floss with long-range shots as Parks dishes his way in the paint.

Mark de Guzman, a transferee from University of St. Benilde, may also bring his deadly shooting, which he already showed a glimpse of in the Bulldogs' summer run.

"I'm very excited about this season," said Altamirano. "But, again, our chances are no guarantee either teams. In the UAAP, nothing is guaranteed, but as far as we're concerned, we're very optimistic."

And it just might be the Bulldogs' bench. Enough you after falling a score long time of the Final Four last season.

"It's a shame to say it's a balanced league, and it's hard to say who's going to be in the top four, but maybe we should be there," said Altamirano.

3 FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY

SETTLED in a bottleneck finish for two straight seasons, certainly haven't satisfied Far Eastern University.

In his coach Bert Flores, some tweaks are in order to put to end to that heartbreaking trend. Although the Tamaraws still boast the best backcourt with Jayson Abrot and Gowin and Terrence Romeo, they've bonded up their frontcourt with some key additions led by Anthony Hargrove.

"Our guards are still there, but we have to make adjustments from last year," said Flores. "For the opposing teams, to stop FEU, you just have to stop RR and Terrence. I told them it won't work that way anymore. They have to involve their teammates this time."

With the departure of agile big man Alfredo Hanson, still eyes will be on Hargrove, the 6-foot-8 center from Pennsylvania expected to give the Tamaraws the needed presence in the paint.

But also hoping it's-work with Hargrove in providing the post defense FEU badly needed last season are forwards Carl Bryan Cruz, Prince Eze and the Baligua brothers, Arvie and Mark.

"Last year, we were relying heavily on Alfredo for rebounds," said Flores. "Now we have smart players who can help out. We have more players who can bang inside."

The Tamaraws, though, would like to keep their goals modest as Romeo noted the tight competition this season.

"All teams have improved—NU, Ateneo, La Salle, UST—so we'll just aim for the Final Four first," said Flores.

4 UNIVERSITY OF STO. TOMAS

WHEN most coaches tapped former ally of Isaac Tonzo as among the top teams this season, coach Pido Jarencio had a quick retort.

"Sapi naman silang gagaan (They just always say that)," Jarencio said jokingly.

It had been six years since Jarencio steered UST to the championship on his rookie stint. Although it had been a rollercoaster ride for the Espada crew after that, opponents find it hard to overlook the Tigers' first time.

"The team I'm really worried about is UST," Ateneo coach Norman Black admitted. "There's nothing like, for a coach, having your veterans coming back."

Indeed, experience may just carry the Tigers through this season with guard Aaric Bonoan back to lead them on team captain.

Aside from and he has juniors MVP Kevin Ferrer now to provide more scoring punch, while Karim Abdul, rather very disqualified from the race for the Mythical Five last season, had been a force in the preseason.

But the key development for the Tigers was the return of Clark Bautista and Allen Mariano, who proved to be a massive revelation.

Bautista, boasting fresh from his successful preliminary hopes to intensify the Tigers' patterned three-point shooting game, while Mariano, the 6-foot-3 forward who recovered from injury, surprisingly averaged 15.1 points per game in the preseason.

"I'm just happy that we have no problems this year," said Jarencio. "We have an intact roster. Our veterans have improved and we now have a deeper bench."

A key absence, though, would be energy guy Louie Tamon. If the Tigers find a way to make up for the scrappy hustle the hard-working forward used to provide, they're definitely better than the Final Four squad they were last season.

5 LA SALLE

AFTER a series of unfortunate events brought La Salle down to a

WHERE »

A UST team will be riding on the shoulders of young Blue Eagle Kiefer Ravena as he takes on playmaking duties. ALVIN KASIBANG

PRIDE. 'Winning culture

THEIR quest for a seventh outright title gives the NU Bulldogs renewed confidence, said it cleared during the FIBA Flying V Preseason Manila Cup. The Bulldogs swept the tournament to win the championship. ALVIN KASIBANG

Twitterverse speaks out

WILL Ateneo (it's going to be urban survey when you ask "who do you think will win the UAAP basketball season?" and then watch the humanity of the Philippines get the second most number of votes.

The Maroons have struggled for several seasons in the centerpiece event but that hasn't stopped their supporters for from keeping the faith—even if faith is merely what they hope would lead UP this season.

Here are some of the pre-debate UAAP fans sent out via Twitter:

@Mathew_is_Back Ateneo via Increase of Slaughter, Salva, Ravena and Buencamino and Coach Norman's system.

@macaldelacruz UP FIGHTING MAROONS! DARE, TABOT NA, SUAPO MAVALAN NG SEGAL AT LORENZO!

@nellaga #D will win this year, so Ateneo in the preseason, they are the team to beat. Robby pasko ja improve ako nito

@gmanuel3 I think ATENEO going to win. If Ateneo underachieving, is there/ever ---(). plus they have improved so much :)

@TheSpectateuses Imo UST. Welcome & They had a game w/ skilled-Phil player. I think Rod's a seconds bonsha.

@DonnavonnBrown It's that division or NU will win the championship. Medyo alanganin Ateneo at FU. FEU will be the darkhorse.

@myan_ep2 ADMU as one can guard Greg plus the leadership of Isaac a ct coach of Kiefer, add 4 experience of Coach Norman... :)

@ultramarinee I think NU will have a chance with the crown if they maintain the improvements they made during the preseason. Hihi :)

@mgdiaz UP Fighting Maroons! It's time that the standard of excellence needs the crown.

@sebenpalmos Realistically the Ateneo de Manila Blue Eagles. One Big Fight! Drive Rs Five #UAAP #Inquirer

@rambelt unanswered: because miracles happens every day!

@LADY_Hatch Ateneo on dreams of UAAP champion!

@remmbrand I should say @UPMaroons, but this would be wishful thinking. So I'll say @ateneoblueeagles.

@JustHowIDRUPP will include me, ateneo, na. Is stillo finals but we will be the champion, hehe.

@KeymanDR UP! For a change! It's about time! #Inquirer #UAAP

@ryap ADMU still. Ring, but NU, DLSU and FEU will give them a run for the crown. Good ballid up and movements plan #ramp #Inquirer

@dcamg Maroons for life! :) hehe

@rhezzmusic NU. Libres I'm from NU. :) K. 20bon ate gid Bonyog Packer?! #Inquirer

@rhamperezzy ADMU will WI 1 of front runners. NU can draw any team core, but to the d-end, experience and poise will matter d most. Spoil 4 Inquirer

@WILL_Stet_ Ateneo. Invincible lineup, will get off- during "Season".

@gailtolentino26 UP FIGHTING Maroons :) #YouAreChampz

@matinggawardo NU. Ren-Ave, Mbe, CJ, Gelo, & Bhobaalia. (Did I get the spelling right?) now with staff reinforcer. 2 play champ- ship level

@thegirlsb UP !!! BOOOO!! HOPE SPRING ETERNAAAL

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Angel Tolo, a 22-year-old scholar from the University of Asia and the Pacific, has garnered a plethora of awards on theater, radio broadcasting, volunteer work, and productivity, earning her exceptional versatility and development skills.

She describes herself as "more than a 3.0 GPA" and "one big balancing act". Alongside her academic workload, she participates in various activities to make sure that she is not only studying. She is a member of the Dance Troupe and a student DJ for Radio 5 under-drive that are to increase listenership. Every Saturday from 12 noon to 2pm, she reviews herself in theater play outside UMAP and runs a home-made of the latest trends in school. Angel displays well-rounded-ness by also taking part in more unusual activities such as yoga and painting. When she has extra time, she runs errands, gathers multimedias, etc.

Reed majors in an Early Child Education major from De La Salle University. She started her leadership skills in her freshman year, when she was elected Batch President. It was a great honor for her and it developed her desire to serve the student body. From other graduations, she planned outdoor activities just to see. She wants to be a preschool teacher for a year or two, and then proceed to take a master's degree in Special Education. Ultimately, she wants to put up a school for special children.

After today, it will be like a little honeymoon among all entire organization. She can't a phone to keep track of all her responsibilities, prioritizing assistance over all others. She is currently part of the Batch Committee, the Officer of the Semester, the La Salle Lipunan Commission, and the socio-political organization entitled Kontiguo.

Alexis Ramos, a Communications Senior from Mapua de Manila University, has proven herself to have a mass of knowledge, with applied to practice that further develops her core principles.

Most of Alexis's strengths lie in the field of communication, excellent character and efficient leadership skills is striking. She can relate to other activities as a means to further make sure that she is working in an all-rounding capacity. Also school, last year, she was in Sun Line Broadcast which is under the Mapua College of Broadcasting. Under, and over the activities she mentioned is an experience which provided her with considerable experience.

Peter Wong, a sophomore in the University of Santo Tomas, is currently aiming his path to success, encountering to make work while along the lines of contributing to the entire building.

She, as public syndicated high school as a valedictorian and salutatorian college as a scholar taking up Mass Communication and participating in Marketing Management. Apart from his academic requirements, he takes part in various student organizations. He is also the Community Development Head of Barkada de Santo Tomas, the Lilo Pharmacist Scholars Association.

He, extracurricular activities, can be limited to the opportunities within

First Batch of Canon PIXMA Stand Out Students. (L to R) Peter Wong, Angel Tolo, Darlene Ly, Bea Lanuzon, Marie Reazon.

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UAAP 75: Where flight and bite collide

From page 1

summer tinkle-plans thinkle last season, the Green Archers hope to have a fresh start with a new coach and a standout recruit.

"I'm just happy that we're improving as a team and as individuals," said coach Gee Abanilla, the only new mentor this season.

Both Fems Bird hopefuls are big men Arnold Van Opstal (Submitting) and Victor Andrada (ACL) and join de La Salle-Zobel stud Luigi Gozo (no shoulder).

But it's the addition of Jason Ballungay, the highly touted rookie from Xavier University, that may have given the Green Archers the much-needed confidence boost.

"He's a very good player, a blue-chipper," Abanilla said of Ballungay, the 18-year-old son of former PBA rogue Alvin Teng who once scored 106 points in a single game.

"He brings a lot of things for us. He passes nice, he can post up, he can run the ball. He gives us more dimension offensively and he's very coachable."

In fact, in his first Season-La Salle showcase over the summer, Teng feared countryman with a clutch triple and powered the Archers to an upset win.

"We're putting him in a position where we can be successful," said Abanilla. "We're exploiting the strengths of each and everyone."

The emergence of Ballungay has been "Jayson at the point has also been a plus for the Archers, who finished second to the Bulldogs in the pre-season tournament.

"We're doing the same things we did in the preseason, but we're also preparing for some adjustments with this Optimi now playing," said Abanilla.

La Salle's guards are also in formidable with Revilla, Jiolo Paz, Renaud Simmons and Arnaiz transferee Mark Eda.

"It's a surprise for us that we're still ranked (among the top contenders)," said Abanilla. "Our goal this season is modest. We'll just try to make it back to the Final Four."

UAAP coaches (from left) Jerry Codiñera of UE, Aldin Dimaloc of UP, Leo Austria of Adamson, Pido Jarencio of UST, Boo Flores of FEU, Gee Abanilla of La Salle, Norman Black of Ateneo and Eric Altamirano of NU

ANTHONY HARGROVE will provide defensive presence for the Tamaraws.

ALEX MUYLES will try to be the steadfast guard the Falcons' wings.

JERIC Fortuna and the Tigers hope to overthrow last year's champion Ateneo Blue Eagles.

6 ADAMSON

NO team got hit the transfer than the Falcons did this year.

With the exodus of Rookie Dunlao, Ato Ular and Jerwin Gaco, Adamson coach Leo Austria is left with a young core of Jeo Jeo Jeo

School pride makes foreign players feel at home

By Randolph B. Lesaguer

BEING away from home is never easy. More if you have to play basketball for your school also.

This is the dilemma faced by the so-called "imports" of the UAAP foreign players scouted from around the world to bolster the rosters of collegiate teams in a basketball-crazy nation. Normally towering high above their teammates, these big men have been a boon to ballclubs for varsity squads.

Playing in his last year, Emmanuel Mbe, the 6-foot-7 Cameroonian center of this year's UAAP-bound NU Bulldogs, has already well adjusted to the Philippine style of basketball, though he did go through growing pains.

"There was a lot of things that changed since my first year. I was so immature then that I always felt pressured when anything," he said.

But the 2012 Final Fiying 4 Preseason Hinan Cup Best Defensive Player has shown a lot of improvement, rebounding from a dismal outing last season and topping his game, showing he wants to end his UAAP career with a bang.

"I just felt that I had to work on my game, and thankfully, it is finally showing its results," he added.

He then said, "I feel like a Filipino already" after spending the past six years of his life in his home away from home.

But not all imports have adjusted well to the rough and physical basketball play in the country.

GSI's Ikenna Abdul Jeleh than the Filipinos, being as sloppy in love with the game, have overlooked their capacity to improve and have relied more on the talent foreigners willing to play ball here.

"I think it's a stereotype [for Filipinos] that we (foreigners) are stronger," the 6-foot-8 Cameroonian said. "Believers don't call many fouls on us. The guys play tough, but when we do the same to them, we are the ones who are ridiculed on."

He also said that there is more pressure playing in the Philippines.

"Back in Cameroon, we play for fun. But here, there is more pressure to win," he said.

In their game against FEU last year, Abdul, who led Ateneo 74 as rebounding with 11 boards per game, was on his way to a three-point play when he was called for a technical foul on a rebound play. He was ejected and suspended, eliminating him from the elimination race.

"I will thrive in it unlike" the 20-year-old IT major said. "Despite that, I just try to keep my soul and play through it."

Abdul also said that he does not consider himself as an import.

"I play here as a student. I'm not trying to prove anything to anybody. I just try to do my best," he said. "We're a team. We've been together for a number of years now, and I'm comfortable with them."

Henri Bienvenu, another Cameroonian, will suit up for the Bulldogs this season. Bienvenu, along with JP Fighting Maroons' Matthew Ball and Anthony Fangcon of the FEU Tamaraws, will lead this year's foreign rookies.

The 6-foot-6 rookie has learned a lot the past two years from NU coach Eric Altamirano and has already adapted to his new home.

"It's a lot of pressure for us to deliver because there are a lot of good players in the UAAP," he said. "But for Altamirano's coaches, as long as he a good person, and intends it to

KABIBIYAbdul looks comfortable with his teammates at UST.

EMMANUEL Mbe (left) of NU shows a lone ball against Ateneo's Greg Slaughter. The two may end up sharing silver a bigger trophy in the UAAP basketball tournament this season.

UAAP men's basketball team rosters

ADAMSON UNIVERSITY

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	PLAYING YEAR
2	ABRIGO	JUNE LESTER	F	6'1	3rd
4	AGUSTIN	MICHAEL	C	6'1	4th
5	BANDOLA	JOHN HANSLEY	F	6'4	1st
6	CARLOS	GIL	F	6'3	1st
7	CARTAGENA	RANDY JOE	F	6'4	1st
8	CAWLEY	ERIC JAMES	C	6'1	1st
9	DIAZ	ARMAND	G	5'8	1st
10	DUMO	JAMES JUSTIN	FR	6'4	1st
11	ETCUBAÑEZ	ALEX MARK	G	6'1	1st
12	GUIAPAL	ALEXANDER	FR	5'10	1st
13	MONTECLARO	RYAN	FR	6'1	1st
14	ALTAJE	ALEXANDER	G/F	6'1	Last Year
15	PLACIDO	SYDNEY	G	6'1	Last Year
22	REYES	HARRY	G	6'1	1st
24	SAN	JAMES	C	6'3	1st
30	TIOSEJCO	CEDRICK	F	6'3	1st

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	PLAYING YEAR
22	ANG JOYA	KIEFER RAY	G/F	6'3"	Rookie
18	BARRIOS	RYAN BUENCHICO	F	6'2"	3rd
15	CAHILIG	DENNIS MATTHEW II	G	6'0"	1st
16	CHUA	LUCKY JOSHUA II	C	6'3"	4th
8	DUMBER	CHRIS NORMAN	PG	5'9"	1st
13	ERLANA	JOHN PAUL I	C	6'7"	3rd
11	GARCIA JR.	ROMAR A.	F/C	6'5"	2nd
7	GERMINO, II	JOSE EDWARD I	G	5'11"	4th
14	LIM	ISAAC GILLE	SG	6'0"	Rookie
19	PERKINS	KIRK HUGH IV	G	6'2"	1st
24	PORTER	KRISTOPHER JAMES	C/F	6'6"	Rookie
10	QUIMBO	KEVIN ISAAC C.	G	6'0"	1st
5	SALVA	VICTOR ALEXANDER I	F	6'4"	4th
20	SLAUGHTER	GREGORY WILLIAM I	C	7'0"	2nd
17	SUMALINOG	CHRISTOPHER LOUIS	G/F	6'4"	4th
1	TENORIO	LORENZO JOSE R.	PG	5'10"	3rd

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	PLAYING YEAR
20	ANTONIO	CYRUS	M	6'0"	4th
2	DELA CRUZ	LUIS ALFONSO	SG	5'10"	3rd
4	ESTACIO	ARMIE	F	6'0"	2nd
7	NAVIGAR	JEZ BRYAN	PG	6'0"	3rd
8	NAVIGAR	MIKE JOHN	F	6'0"	4th
9	PARRES	PHILIP	F	6'0"	3rd
10	REVILLA	LUIS ALFONSO	F/G	6'0"	1st
11	SAN	GABRIEL	M	6'0"	4th
12	TILLER	KIRBY JAMES	PG	6'0"	2nd
13	TORRES	ADRIAN	SG	5'10"	3rd
15	TORRES	THOMAS	M	6'0"	4th
16	TOSOC	ROBERT CARLOS	F	6'0"	2nd
21	TOSOC	THOMAS JAMES FRED	F/G	6'0"	4th
1	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN UNKNOWN		6'0"	2nd
27	VOSOTROS	ADMORE	SG	5'10"	1st
31	WEBB	JOSHUA DAVID	G/SG	6'2"	4th

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	PLAYING YEAR
5	BORNEA	JOHN ANTHONY I	PF	6'3"	4th
3	CLARENCE	PATRICK LOUIS C	F	6'3"	3rd
4	DIAZ	JUAN MIGUEL	PF	6'3"	2nd
2	ESCOTO	RUSSELL	C	6'5"	2nd
8	ESPINAS	ARNOLD T.	F	6'3"	4th
7	EVIA	RAYMUND A.	F	6'3"	3rd
6	FERRARIS	JOHN CLARENCE III	C	6'5"	Last Year
9	GARCIA	RYAN ANTHONY	PG	5'10"	4th
12	JELO	REYMUND C.	F	6'3"	1st
10	MENDOZA	RAYMUND	M	6'1"	3rd
13	MINDORO	ANTHONY R. JR	C	6'6"	3rd
15	PASSIO	ROGER ROY II	F	6'3"	1st
18	RAMOS	ALEJANDRO ANTONIO JR.	PG	5'9"	1st
11	ROMEO	TERENCE JOEL S.	PG	5'11"	1st
14	SANTIAGO	CHRISTIAN S.	C	6'10"	2nd
16	TOLOSA	CHRISTIAN MICHAEL U.	PG	5'10"	2nd

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	PLAYING YEAR
9	ALQUIROZ	JOSHUA ANTHONY	PG	5'9"	2nd
10	ARCAMBAL	MARK ADEL	F	6'4"	Rookie
18	CRUZ	RAYMOND	PG	6'0"	2nd
3	DE GUZMAN	MARK JOEL	F	6'2"	Rookie
7	HAMADA	GILBERT B.	SG	6'2"	4th
2	JAVILLONAR	JOSEPH C.	PG	5'9"	3rd
5	LAGMAYAN	GARVO	F	6'1"	3rd
11	LAMBACAN	FERDINAND L.	PG	5'8"	2nd
14	LIM	EMMANUEL G.	F	6'3"	Last Year
16	MORRIS	ANA MARGARET	F	6'4"	2nd
23	PANGILINAN	EDMUND	F/G/C	6'4"	2nd
12	PEREZ	TRISTAN	F	6'3"	Rookie
24	RUFINO	MARK A.	PG	5'11"	1st
25	SISNERO	JEROLD JOHN C.	F	6'3"	3rd
8	SORIA	JUSTIN	SG	6'3"	3rd
4	VILLANUEVA	JOSEPH	F	6'4"	2nd

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	PLAYING YEAR
20	BUNAG	JOHN PAUL	SG	5'9"	2nd
4	CAGAS	JOSHUA	M	6'3"	Last Year
5	CLARO	ALBERT	M	6'3"	4th
22	DELA CRUZ	ROMMEL JR.	M	6'3"	1st
23	DELA CRUZ	ROMMEL JR.	M	6'3"	1st
12	DUMAYAG	CHRISTOPHER JOVEN	C	6'5"	2nd
11	ESPINA	CHRISTIAN	C	6'5"	1st
21	ESPINOSA	EMIL ANTHONY	M	6'2"	1st
8	GAGNI	DAVID	C	6'3"	Last Year
9	GARCIA	ADRIAN	M	6'3"	1st
6	GARCIA	ANDRE	PG	6'3"	2nd
10	GARCIA	ARCHIBALD	PG	6'3"	1st
7	GUEVARA	ROY VINCENT	PG	5'11"	1st
3	GUMBAN	ANDREW C.	G	6'3"	4th
30	MILLER	MIKE	M	6'4"	Last Year
31	QUEVEDO	DAN RYAN	M	6'3"	1st

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	PLAYING YEAR
14	ABCEDE	HENRY	PG	5'9"	1st
15	DALUPAN	JL	F/C	6'2"	1st
4	GAMBOA	MICHAEL KEVIN I	PG	5'7"	Last Year
5	HIPOLITO	JOSH	F/C	6'2"	Last Year
11	LAPID	MARK	G/F	6'4"	Last Year
8	MANUEL	JOSE MATTHEW TEODORO III	M	6'2"	3rd
17	MONTECASTRO	HERCULES	F/C/G	6'3"	Last Year
13	PADILLA	ALVIN	M	6'3"	Last Year
23	ROMERO	FRANCISCO I	M	6'3"	2nd
21	SALVADOR	MICHAEL ARTHUR I	M	6'3"	1st
22	SOTTO	MIKE	C	6'3"	2nd
9	VARELA	JOHN VICTORIO	G/JUNIOR	6'3"	Last Year
24	WONG	CHRISTOPHER	M	6'2"	Last Year
	BILLY	MATTHEW	F	6'3"	
	[illegible]	[illegible]	F	6'3"	

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

NO.	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	POSITION	HEIGHT	PLAYING YEAR
20	ABRIOL	SAMMY	F	6'4"	4th
8	ARUMAS	EMMANUEL	F	6'4"	1st
5	BALISTOY	CLARK	F	6'4"	4th
9	BARZAGA	EDWARD	G	6'3"	2nd
14	CABUHAT	KEVIN	F	6'4"	1st
7	CABUHAT	MARK ANDREW	PG	5'11"	1st
12	CAMACHO	JAMES	F	6'3"	3rd
11	CAMPOS	DOMINIC	F	6'4"	3rd
3	CU	BRYAN JOHN	G	6'2"	3rd
23	DANGUILAN	KENNETH	F	6'4"	2nd
24	FERNANDEZ	ALVIN	F	6'4"	3rd
13	FIL	FRANCIS ANGELO	F	6'4"	3rd
10	GAN	JOHN ALLAN	F	6'4"	4th
15	GAN	ERIC ALLEN	F	6'4"	4th
6	GAN	JOSEPH PAUL	F	6'4"	3rd
16	GALAM	CHRISTIAN JOHN	F	6'4"	1st

Samsung celebrates youth sportsmanship in the UAAP

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LIFESTYLE

Extreme Transformation of the Big Dome

The Smart Araneta Coliseum, also known as the Big Dome, has been host to numerous iconic moments in Philippine sports and entertainment history. It is the mecca of the sporting events such as the PBA, UAAP and NCAA. At the same time, top music acts that played at the Big Dome include the Black Eyed Peas, Maroon 5, Kylie Minogue, Lady Gaga, Lifehouse, and Jessica. It secured its place in boxing and basketball history as the home of the famous "Thrilla in Manila" and "Dream Ultimate All-Star Weekend." Apart from these, the Big Dome also has an enviable place in history as the place that Blessed John Paul II described as "the coliseum of papal audiences." At present, the Big Dome hosts more than 150 events a year.

Because of this, the Big Dome treasures its unique connection with generations of local, international and local performing artists and legions of athletic heroes since its first show in 1952.

To augment the growing demand for parking, the currently under construction Araneta Center Parking Building will feature 1,000 slots with a direct link to the Coliseum.

MODERN amenities. The historic arena is currently undergoing a comprehensive, top-to-bottom transformation.

EXCITING times: A new look and a new spirit is coming to the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

EXTREME changes: The Big Dome will soon showcase a new parking building, a grand atrium, new first-class F&B, more comfortable seating, a dynamic scoreboard, and many more.

The Big Dome is deep into its EXTREME TRANSFORMATION. Not only will its customers enjoy the prestige of watching their favorite sporting event and artists in a venue with such a storied history, it will also do so with welcome viewers' pleasure. Michael Nash, Chief Operating Officer of the Smart Araneta Coliseum says, "The Extreme Transformation of the Big Dome begins with the majestic façade and interiors of the new Green Gate." Other state-of-the-art features will include improved kiosks for retail, scanners at the turnstiles for quicker and more efficient audience entry, LED signages throughout, climate-controlled space and video cameras. There will be new flooring, ceilings, lighting and seats for viewer comfort. There will also be more rest rooms with newer features. Adding to these perks are the convenience of parking plus access points to the shopping and dining options in and around the Coliseum.

Nash said that the Big Dome also boasts of the ideal elevation and classic coliseum seating arrangement that meets international standards. "Unlike other venues, our elevation is just right. Audiences, especially kids who get overly excited during ball games and bubble shows need not worry about falling over themselves in steeply-inclined seats," Nash emphasizes.

Over at the back-of-house, promoters, artists and athletes will love the new locker rooms. The media will also have its designated press room equipped with all the technological tools to transmit their stories in real time.

With a transformation as extreme as that, there is no doubt that just like the Madison Square Garden, the Big Dome will continue to be the cultural icon of the country.

TICKETNET ONLINE: FIRST EVER IN THE PHILIPPINES

Pay online, print your own ticket!

In just over a month since the system became operational, customers are reaping the rewards of another first by the Araneta Group in its pursuit to enhance viewer experience.

TicketNet Online is making it more convenient for customers to immediately purchase the most coveted tickets to the biggest concerts and shows at the Big Dome.

Michael Noah, Chief Operating Officer of Ulapoon Inc., said that TicketNet Online "has made it possible for people to acquire tickets from any time, anywhere, 24-7. Fans don't have to brave fickle weather conditions and horrendous traffic just to buy tickets.

TicketNet Online uses a technology that allows them to buy the tickets in a matter of minutes! Plus they enjoy the convenience of getting their tickets on their phones or tablets. This translates to significant savings on money, time and energy."

But the patrons are not the only winners with the new TicketNet Online system. Even promoters are able to raise in the benefits. Noah says, "tickets are selling out very quickly especially for highly popular shows such as Tears for Fears and Maroon 5 simply because tickets are sold as long as seats are available. Since the system no longer accepts reservations, thousands of seats at the Big Dome can actually sell out in hours or even minutes!"

Yes, technology is certainly changing the world, even in the realm of entertainment. With the implementation of TicketNet Online, getting a seat to the best concerts at the Big Dome just got easier.

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The past years have shown the Araneta Group embarking on a comprehensive Redevelopment Plan that promises not only a change of the Quezon City skyline but also an enhancement of the population's lifestyle.

This Redevelopment Plan includes the rise of the 31-storey Gateway Tower right beside the award-winning Gateway Mall, the 400-room deluxe business hotel Novotel Manila Araneta Center, a 2000-slot parking building, and an impressive residential condominium development called Manhattan Garden City.

A total of 18 residential buildings are about to be finished on five hectares of Araneta Center's prime property. Residents will enjoy a slew of premium entertainment, dining, shopping and commercial options within walking distance.

Linking up with the country's top high-rise residential condominium developer, Megaworld Corporation, the Araneta Group has merged its expertise in entertainment and mall management with Megaworld's excellent track record in developing modern townships.

The Novotel Manila Araneta Center is yet another example of impeccable business synergy. For the very first time, Accor, acknowledged as the world's leading "hotel manager," will jointly invest in a Philippine-based hotel.

Novotel Manila Araneta Center will be the very first business hotel of its kind in Quezon City with 400 rooms, a massive ballroom, and enormous meeting facilities. Clearly the contemporary hotel has plush advantages on top of its accessibility and capability to cater to the needs of 56,000 registered businesses in Quezon City as well as to the domestic and international MICE market.

The fast-rising Gateway Tower houses of 80,000 square meters of prime office space, high speed elevators, as well as five levels of luxury retail and three levels of basement parking. Its location is available and its competitive advantages cannot be ignored.

Don't blink now. With its Redevelopment Plan, the Araneta Center is not only altering the skyline but changing the way Filipinos live, work and play as well.

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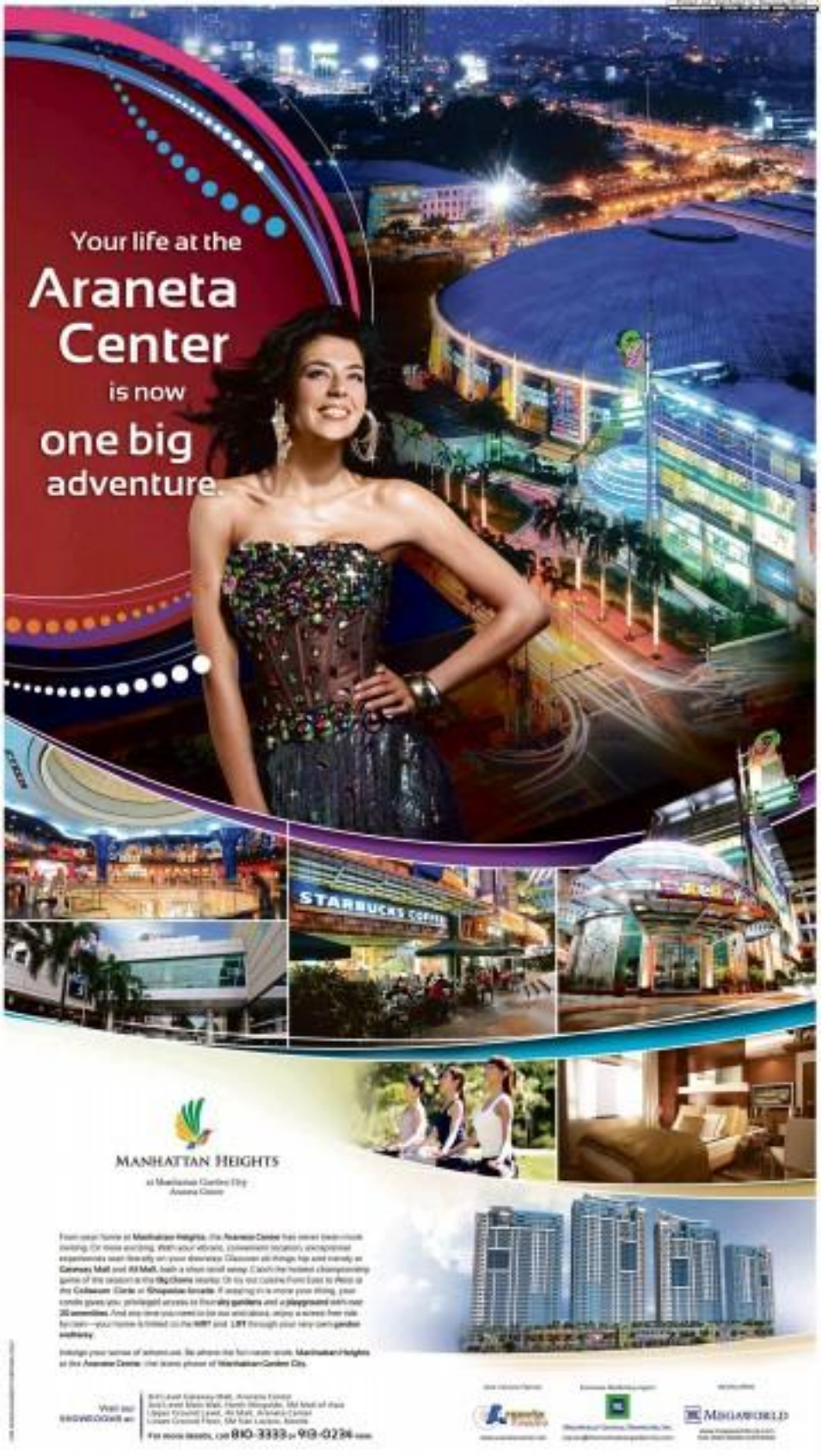

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at Manhattan Garden City
Araneta Center

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Upper Ground Level, Ali Mall, Araneta Center
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